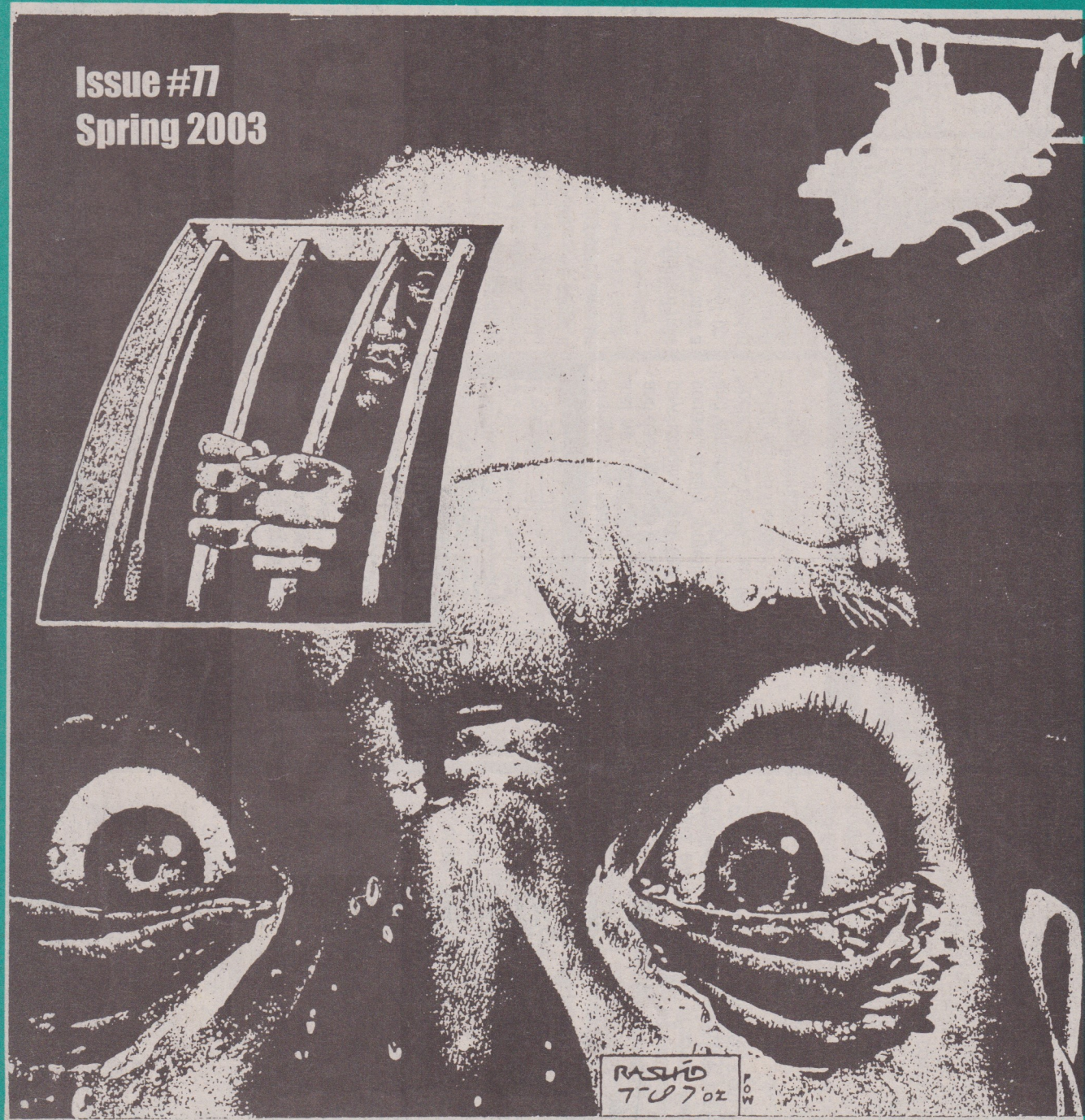


SLINGSHOT

Free

Issue #77
Spring 2003



SLINGSHOT

Block Bush's War

**Out in the Streets
Before It Starts . . .**

As *Slingshot* goes to press, all indications are that Bush is planning to invade Iraq in March or sooner — with or without international partners, with or without evidence that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction or has aided Al Qaeda and probably without giving UN inspectors the time they say is necessary to complete their work. If the war hasn't started yet by the time you read this article, no matter how inevitable war looks, *it's still worth it to do what you can to stop the war*. Bush is counting on all his tough talk to create a sense of inevitability and resignation in order to bring both people in this country and parts of the international community along for the ride.

It's up to us to make it clear to folks in the US and the rest of the world that people in the US are *not* united behind Bush's preemptive war of aggression. The more people here and in the rest of the world sense that this is Bush's war, not America's war, the more people and countries will feel comfortable publicly breaking ranks with Bush. If Bush is going to make Iraq the first example of his new doctrine of military preemption, it's up to us to make sure it's his *last* example of this horrendous policy. It's up to us to make it clear for the whole world that Bush is isolated — isolated in his own country and isolated around the world!



**Disrupt the Nation
. . . Before He Wins**

If you're reading this and a US war against Iraq is starting or is ongoing, it's still crucial to express your protest and outrage against Bush's preemptive war of aggression — and better yet, to stop business as usual in any way you can. Are we going to just lie back and let Bush do it — Hell No!

There are a wealth of actions already planned during the first few hours and days of a military invasion of Iraq. Check out the list at the end of this article. There will likely be protests in every big city and small town across the land. But disruption and protest shouldn't stop after the first few days of a Bush war. It is crucial that we create increasing levels of chaos and disruption during the duration of the war.

Bush is counting on fighting the war on his terms, far away, using vastly superior high tech weapons against a population no one can see. He's not counting on having to fight on two fronts at once — one of them right here at home. For a lot of us, it's clear that we must stand with the people of the rest of the world against war and murder, not with Bush's empire. Living here in the belly of the country making the war, we're in the best position of all to fight this war.

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The media has been pushing the idea that "war is now inevitable." But just because Bush has the *power* to order a military attack doesn't mean the war will necessarily be *easy* for Bush. It's our job to make it as difficult and costly for him as possible. Maybe this can prevent the war, but even if it can't — even if it's too late to actually stop a war against Iraq — we can limit Bush's victory in crucial ways.

Bush is going out on a limb on this one, straining international relations even with many US "allies" who are very uncomfortable at the idea of a nuclear armed America with a policy of preemptive strikes. By the time the bombing started during the Gulf war, Bush's Dad had assembled a coalition that had agreed to pay all of the costs of the war. That is highly unlikely to happen this time. There is a real question as to whether other permanent members of the UN security council — France, Russia, China — might veto a US



Continued on page 11

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All of Bush's high tech weapons out in the desert depend on a vast industrial infrastructure functioning smoothly here at home. The home front is a soft target. A few hundred people can shut down transportation and disrupt the ability of workers to be productive. A few thousand people could play hide and seek at key military installations and prevent their normal functioning. A few tens of thousands of people could require Bush to reassign troops from Iraq back to the home front. It's up to us to increase the cost of war as much as possible. Act with bravery, take to the streets, stay away from your job, strike in secret under cover of darkness — but don't let business as usual continue while the US carries out its war of aggression.

Actions planned once the war starts:

- Mass nonviolent direct action is planned in San Francisco at 7 am at Market and Main (Embarcadero BART) on the 1st business day

Continued on page 10

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Shut down the WTO

The World Trade Organization is coming to Cancún Sept. 10-14, and so is the struggle against corporate domination

By PB Floyd and Flying Saucer

With the US mobilizing hundreds of thousands of troops to assert its unilateral military dominance over the world community, it's easy to forget about the other game in town: the continued campaign for world dominance by corporations and the capitalist system. But these two forms of dominance are like two faces of the same coin. If people around the globe really want to fight the US military machine, we're ultimately going to have to fight global economic structures like the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO exists to concentrate wealth and power into western corporate hands. The United States military exists to serve those corporate hands — and eats out of them.

The best chance in years to fight the WTO is coming this September 10-14, 2003 in Cancún, México, when the WTO will conduct its Fifth Ministerial Summit. Grassroots organizations around the Western Hemisphere and around the world are already raising a powerful call: Shut Down the World Trade Organization. Whether you can travel to Cancún to fight in the streets or whether you stay in your local community to disrupt business as usual between September 10-14, it's high time for a global uprising to challenge corporate globalization and the WTO.

It seems like ages ago when tens of thousands of regular people brought the WTO to its knees in Seattle in November, 1999. In only four short years, we've gone from a people's offensive against the corporate monster, to a state of apprehension in the face of attacks on freedom and peace at home and abroad. The attack on September 11 has been used as an excuse for the greatest expansion of US military, intelligence and police power in memory. Under these circumstances, it's easy

to forget how to *set* the agenda, rather than just reacting to each new Bush administration attack. It's absolutely crucial that we fight *for* something. It's time to attack Bush's attempts to create fear by raising some very important questions:

Who really benefits from the war on terrorism? Who really benefits from the World Trade Organization and corporate globalization? Are these things making us "safer" or are they creating a world of

decreased equality, increased violence and decreased freedom? Are they creating a world in which the earth's natural life-support systems have been irreparably damaged? Will our grandchildren be born into a world without wilderness, without clean water and air — into a life of fear, with no privacy, no freedom, no hope, and no happiness?

It's not too late to stop the forces that seek to concentrate power in the hands of the few. The real purpose of the WTO and the war on terrorism is the *concentration of power*. The WTO seeks to strip local communities and individuals of self-determination over how we feed ourselves and provide for our other human needs.

People all over the hemisphere are organizing to stop the WTO. In México, hundreds of people have attended planning meetings, resulting in a global call for action and education against the Cancún WTO meeting. An organizational meeting in November included 89 Mexican and 53 foreign non-governmental organizations representing 16 countries from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. In the United States, thousands of people are making plans to travel to Cancún for the WTO summit. People are discussing the idea of organizing educational caravans



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SLINGSHOT

Slingshot is a quarterly, independent, radical, newspaper published in the East Bay since 1988.

OK, so war is on the horizon, or maybe even happening as you read this. This issue is being done before actual bombardment has commenced, and let's hope that somehow we can keep the US war machine from steamrolling over Iraq and our liberties (not that having the state guarantee anything is worth the paper it is written on). But if not, let's do our damndest to stop life as usual from proceeding here in the belly of the beast. Since Slingshot publishes quarterly, some of what is in this issue may not be the most current, given that things are changing rapidly on the global scene. Bear with us.

This issue we celebrated Slingshot's 15th birthday by having one of the easiest internal processes for putting the paper together ever. Shout outs to the outside authors who turned in good articles on time, as well as to Will who fixed all our technological issues that have been plaguing us for years.

We're still looking to find someone born on March 9, 1988 (our birthday) who can act as our mascot. If you know anyone like that, please send us their picture and bio-information. Wait, that's just creepy!

We are always on the lookout for writers, artists, editors, photographers, distributors and independent thinkers to help us put out this paper. If you have such skills and would like to contribute we'd greatly appreciate it. Photos of demos or of cool reworkings of the cultural landscape are especially welcome.

Editorial decisions about Slingshot are made by the collective, but not all articles reflect the opinions of all collective members. We welcome debate, constructive criticism and discussion.

Slingshot New Volunteer Meeting

Volunteers interested in getting involved with Slingshot can see what all the fuss is about on April 6th at 3p.m. at the Long Haul in Berkeley (see below).

Article deadline and Next Issue date

Mail Box

Dear Slingshot,

I have managed to wade my way through another year of material existence. I was content with the mass insanity: sell my days away for money, so that I can spend it back for the necessities of life such as food and shelter. But I can no longer live out that lie.

I quit my job. I am shedding my material possessions. We are planning a communal greenhouse. I am transitioning to cheaper rent, hopefully to become rent-free. I have turned the one small clock in my home face-down.

On New Year's Day, two friends and I were in Atlanta at the mercy of a consumerist family with which we traveled. As they spent money we turned a 20 foot section of broken sidewalk into a non-commissioned series of rock sculptures.

The voice of freedom whispers in our ears, occasionally licking the lobes seductively. Yet the sirens of oppression blare incessantly. I believe that the whispers will be heard.

Love,

Derek
Asheville, NC

Y.A PREPARATE A DIRIGIR LA INDUSTRIA



"Prepare yourself to run industry"

Slingshot Organizer Update

We completely sold out of the 2003

We at the DPP hope 2002 has been good for you. This year we were excited to welcome the St. Pauli Girl to San Francisco's queer community. We waited a long time for our closeted girlfriend, but we're glad that she has finally come out. She has assured us that her Playboy modeling days are over. When last seen, our dyke power girl was roaring down Market Street's Pride Parade. We wish her luck, and we wish you all the best.

XXOO
Dyke Power Posse

The DPP is a mixed-gendered group of straights and queers. We're your brothers. We're your sisters. We're your sons. We're your daughters. We're your best friends. We're your neighbors. We're people you've never seen before. We're people you've seen all the time.

Contact us at dykepowerposse@yahoo.com



Holiday greetings
from the
Dyke Power Posse

BASTARD CONFERENCE ON ANARCHIST ECONOMICS



The third annual BASTARD (Berkeley Anarchist Students of Theory And Research & Development) Anarchist Conference will be Sunday, March 30, 2003, the day after the SF anarchist book fair. This year it will be held at New College, 766 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA.

This year BASTARD has decided to try a theme for the conference; anarchist economics. An entire track will be dedicated to analysis of economics today, visions of future economics and theories of anarchist economics that differentiate it from market, utopian and Marxist theories of economics. Other topics will also be considered. If you would like to submit a proposal for the conference you can do so one of two ways. First, go to sfbay-anarchists.org and click on the conference proposal link. Or you can mail a proposal to BASTARD c/o Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705.

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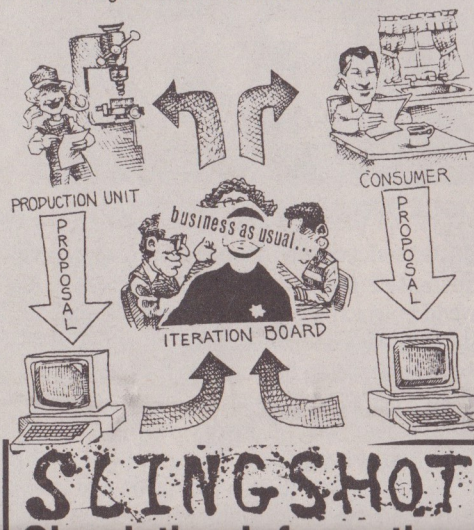
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Slingshot Newspaper

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We completely sold out of the 2003 Organizer in January, the earliest we've ever run out. We've had to send back orders for hundreds of copies, which is a big bummer. But, we're already thinking about the 2004 edition, which should be out in September. If you have suggestions, historical dates, radical contacts, or art work, send it to us by the end of June.

One of the most rewarding parts of working on the Organizer is all the amazing letters we've received containing orders. People write us poems, send CDs of their favorite bands, include stickers, glitter, photographs of their dogs and roommates and other things too strange to discuss publicly. We got a banana flavored condom, and a glow in the dark one. (In case you can't find it in the dark?) This year someone sent us what appeared to be homemade lollipops cast into the shape of skulls. We were too afraid it was poisoned to eat it; although the possibility that it contains some excellent hallucinogen we've never tried might overcome our fear, if we get bored some evening. People sent so many envelopes full of glitter this year that the area around our computer is impossible to clean. Thanks to all of you for your creativity and passion — it helps us to keep going.

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David McKinney, Homeless Activist, Dead

By Jesse McCloud

"The body of a man burned beyond recognition is still being examined to determine identity and cause of death after the body was found in a homeless encampment near Ashby Avenue and Interstate 80 on Wednesday night." So read the Oakland Tribune of Friday, Dec. 13, 2002. The man was homeless. The body could not be immediately identified. His kerosene heater had somehow ignited his makeshift shelter.

The man was identified as David McKinney. He was a Bay Area activist, active especially in issues in regard to the Homeless. Homeless himself, he had finally been approved for treatment of a mental disorder. Before that could happen, with who knows what positive results, he died in this horrible way. His case makes us wonder, in our wealthy society, why are people sleeping on the streets? There are those who think the homeless "deserve" to be homeless. They are not like you and me. Knowing some details of David's life, people who think like that may be surprised.

He has a family that mourns him; he had a degree in religion from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania. He had studied to be a teacher, attending San Francisco State. He worked as a substitute teacher in East Bay public schools, and taught as a student teacher for a while in the 1980s. He was involved with *Slingshot*, the Long Haul, Food not Bombs, and could be counted on to participate in protests or actions involving progressive issues.

I would like to quote from his sister Lauren's eulogy, delivered Jan. 11, 2003 at Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, PA.:

"My brother David was a gifted and passionate person. How ironic that with his commitment to the marginalized and dispossessed people in our society, having even written a novel about the homeless, that he became homeless himself. His own demons made him quarrelsome and disorganized, making it hard for him to give and receive love, make constructive decisions, and just live day to day. Given his disability, what a gift that he lived as long as he did, and as well as he did. He

about on April 6th at 3p.m. at the Long Haul in Berkeley (see below).

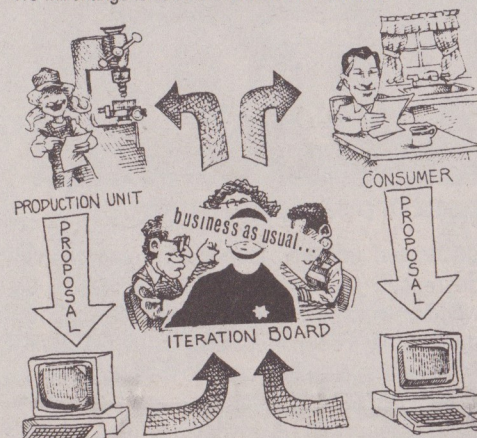
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Circulation Information

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Subscriptions to Slingshot are \$1 (until the state is toppled) per issue (bulk mail pre-paid) or \$2 for First Class Mail after the issue comes out. International is \$2.50 per issue. Back issues are also available. **Amazing national free distribution program:** Outside of the Bay Area, we'll mail a stack of free copies of Slingshot to distributors, infoshops, bookstores and random friendly individuals for FREE in the US if they give 'em out for free.

If you purchased a 2003 Slingshot organizer via mail order, you've been sent this copy for free. Send us \$1 for a one year subscription.

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Help!

Slingshot is looking for a Fall intern (or volunteers in general) to help us distribute the 2004 *Slingshot Organizer*. We're looking for folks who will participate with us as full and equal member of our collective, sharing all decision making, etc. We figured that some people have to do an internship for school, etc., and might want to do their time with a radical project, instead of some liberal non-profit, etc. We are an all volunteer collective, so this is unpaid. We would like to find folks any time between September - December. If this sounds cool, contact us:

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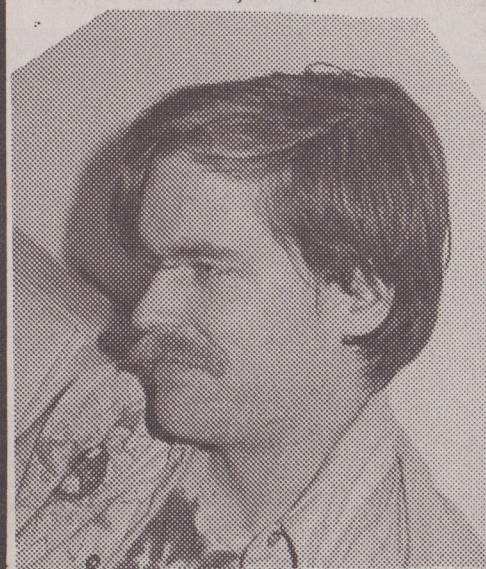
Cover and page 1 art by imprisoned artist Kevin (Rashid) Johnson #185492, Wallens Ridge State Prison, PO Box 759, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.

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"The world needs more people like David. How can we receive David's unworldliness and deep empathy into our spirits? David never blamed or labeled the powerless. When we use a label to define ourselves against others, we close off the connection, we lose compassion, we kill. Sometimes we do that to stay sane in this world, to feel separate from chaos and darkness. But the chaos and the darkness are part of us, as all great literature reminds us. We cannot undo what happened to David, but if we see the homeless, the poor, the mentally ill, the dispossessed, as fully human, then we carry on his legacy."

A memorial service will be given in the East Bay for David and information should be available from Steve Weiss at the Homeless Action Center.

Anti-FTAA Protests in Quito

The seventh summit of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) took place in Quito, Ecuador on October 31. The FTAA is an international trade agreement that would create the world's largest free market zone-affecting 650 million people and \$9 trillion in capital. It is a different name for the expansion of NAFTA to every country in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, excluding Cuba. Negotiations began immediately after the completion of NAFTA in 1994 and are to be completed by 2005. The FTAA will make it easier for corporations to bypass environmental or worker protection laws and will increase corporate control over our schools, water, electricity and food. Justin Ruben, a graduate student at Yale has been active in educating and organizing against the FTAA for several years in Connecticut and was one of thousands who came from around the world to protest the most recent meeting in Quito.



As we crowded into buses to head north, I called the other caravan, who reported that they had 80 people. I feared weak numbers but soon after we got off the buses and began a 15km trek to Quito, the number of people seemed to mysteriously increase, as buses from the South caught up with us and disgorged fresh groups of protesters.

The procession was a riot of color, filled with red and blue ponchos and hundreds of rainbow flags (the symbol of the Andean indigenous and campesino movements). People lined the street to watch as we passed by. One shopkeeper explained to me that the indigenous people were like burros, dragging along the rest of the country, who were also opposed to the FTAA because it would devastate the Ecuadorian economy, but who let the indigenous movement carry the torch for their opposition. Old women chanted ceaselessly for four hours, "No queremos, y no nos da la gana, ser una colonia, norteamericana,"

An Eyewitness Account

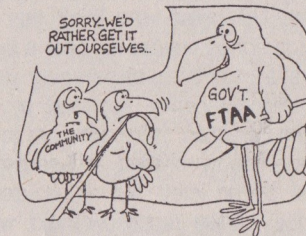
As the two groups approached each other, people on each side were visibly stirred, and some began to run. At this point, I realized that after 4 months of frantic organizing, the mobilization was a reality, that whatever happened we had already won, that thousands of campesinos and indigenas had come to Quito to unequivocally reject U.S.-style "free" trade. And I simply began to bawl.

Our group didn't pause, but continued straight toward the Marriott Hotel, where the 34 trade ministers from North and South America were arriving to negotiate a treaty that promises to wipe out small farmers, to hand corporations a sweeping new set of tools to evade environmental, consumer and labor laws, to force the privatization of water, health care, education, culture, and biodiversity.

As we headed north we were joined by large groups of campesinos, students, trade unionists, and international activists who had already been fighting running battles with the police, who were attempting to turn everyone back several kilometers from the Summit. The march was led by a line of campesino and indigenous leaders ("dirigentes"), walking arm-in-arm, preceded by a Shaman conducting rites to improve the success of our efforts. Soon we were stopped by several hundred riot police. The dirigentes asked to send a delegation of civil society groups in to the summit to present a giant letter made up of the proposals and demands of thousands of people who had joined the caravans along their route. They were soundly refused.

So the dirigentes deliberated and decided to head west toward the Volcan Pichincha. As we rounded the corner we saw a thousand or more people ahead of us. More groups drifted in from the sides, and soon la Avenida Colon, one of Quito's widest streets, was packed for perhaps 8 or 10 blocks, with more people out

They shot it at the crowd and over the crowd, so that as people ran away, they ran into more gas. I walked until I couldn't see or breathe, then began to run, then someone grabbed my hand and led me away. (Why do I never carry goggles to these things?) The president of the National Judicial Workers Union was hit with three tear gas canisters and taken to the hospital. Several young kids passed out and



almost asphyxiated. One woman fell on her baby, who was injured and taken to the hospital. A reminder that "free" trade can only proceed via brutal repression, which is now so commonplace at trade summits that it hardly elicits comment.

And so people retreated to the south to regroup, and I retreated to the communications center to try to get the word out about the success of the mobilization, and its repression.

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corporate control over our schools, water, electricity and food. Justin Ruben, a graduate student at Yale has been active in educating and organizing against the FTAA for several years in Connecticut and was one of thousands who came from around the world to protest the most recent meeting in Quito.



Justin Ruben
October 31, 2002

During the first day of demonstrations I found myself 20km south of Quito with maybe 300 indígenas in one of two protest caravans that had crossed the country spreading the word about the protest against the Free Trade Area of the Americas summit in Quito.

along the rest of the country, who were also opposed to the FTAA because it would devastate the Ecuadorian economy, but who let the indigenous movement carry the torch for their opposition. Old women chanted ceaselessly for four hours, "No queremos, y no nos da la gana, ser una colonia, norteamericana,"

(We don't want, and it doesn't do us any good, to be a North American colony). One group of Bolivians, led by Evo Morales, the coca-grower who almost became president there, marched with coca leaves taped to their foreheads.

When we finally reached our destination in Quito, we rounded the corner and found not 80 but somewhere around 4,000 people waiting.

America were arriving to negotiate a treaty that promises to wipe out small farmers, to hand corporations a sweeping new set of tools to evade environmental, consumer and labor laws, to force the privatization of water, health care, education, culture, and biodiversity.

As we headed north we were joined by large groups of campesinos, students, trade unionists, and international activists who had already been fighting running battles with the police, who were attempting to turn everyone back several kilometers from the Summit. The march was led by a line of campesino and indigenous leaders ("dirigentes"), walking arm-in-arm, preceded by a Shaman conducting rites to improve the success of our efforts. Soon we were stopped by several hundred riot police. The dirigentes asked to send a delegation of civil society groups in to the summit to present a giant letter made up of the proposals and demands of thousands of people who had joined the caravans along their route. They were soundly refused.

So the dirigentes deliberated and decided to head west toward the Volcan Pichincha. As we rounded the corner we saw a thousand or more people ahead of us. More groups drifted in from the sides, and soon la Avenida Colon, one of Quito's widest streets, was packed for perhaps 8 or 10 blocks, with more people out of sight. There must have been between 8-15,000 people. There were giant puppets, a smattering of black-clad anarchists, a surprising number of international activists and lots and lots of campesinos: 75 year-old women, small children, 20 year olds who wanted nothing to do with traditional dress, mothers and teenage sons marching together. And they were all psyched.

As the most important social movement, dirigente, approached the Avenida Amazonas, the police opened fire with a LOT of tear gas.



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Later, in an auditorium where 25 trade ministers sat uncomfortably on stage, 40 campesinos chanted that they had no desire to be a U.S. colony. Peter Rossett of Food First stood up, his arm in a rainbow colored sling thanks to a protest injury. He yelled to Bob Zoellick, the U.S. Trade Representative, that he should be ashamed for pushing an

Continued on page 13



Hey, There's a Federal Agent in My Book!

By Jessamyn West

If you're at all like me, hearing the word "patriot" lately makes you stop listening, reactively clench your fists, or recall that grand old phrase "I love my country, I just hate my government." However, there is one patriot that is worth paying close attention to and that is the USA PATRIOT Act [USAPA].

these new powers is the privacy of library and bookstore patrons, or lack thereof. Previously, a government or police official that wanted patron information [such as lists of books checked out, Internet habits, or home addresses and phone numbers] had to have a subpoena issued by a court of law. Now they

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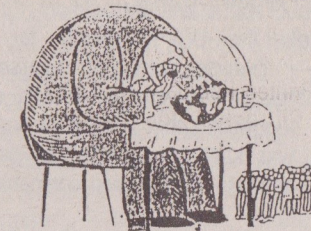
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You should care about the PATRIOT Act if you frequent libraries or bookstores, use pay phones, use an Internet service provider, go to school, go to the doctor, use credit cards or banks, have a lawyer, leave the country, go to jail, belong to an activist organization, read alternative publications [like this one] or know anyone who is contemplating any of the above activities, or maybe if you're just a fan of freedom or the Bill of Rights. Why? Because the assumptions you may be making about your privacy, and your right to it, may be all wrong. Your rights to do all of these things, or do them free of surveillance and/or harassment, have changed in the past two years.

One of the most talked about implications of

these new powers is the privacy of library and bookstore patrons, or lack thereof. Previously, a government or police official that wanted patron information [such as lists of books checked out, Internet habits, or home addresses and phone numbers] had to have a subpoena issued by a court of law. Now they usually need a search warrant, and the warrant, which can be issued almost immediately, does not need to have a specific name on it. In other words, the FBI can go on snooping missions in libraries or bookstores, and go there solely for the purposes of "gathering intelligence" on everyone who may use the library, not necessarily to track down a particular suspected criminal. They can also install monitoring software on library computers without telling anyone it's there.

The worst part of this new legislation is the associated gag order. If the FBI does come to your library, your librarian is forbidden by law to tell you or anyone else that they have been there, or what they did. If they installed surveillance equipment on the computers, they can't tell you. If they asked for the list of the last 50 books you or everyone who uses the library checked out or purchased, they can't tell you. The same is true for bookstore owners and employees. The USAPA creates an entirely new class of prosecutable criminal: librarians who tell the truth.

Many libraries have written privacy policies that spell out what information they will or will not share [see link below] that are themselves offshoots of state laws regarding privacy of library information -- all states but Kentucky



Continued on page 12



america's war:

By X Pattycake in Barcelona

a view from europe

From Europe, the setting for the evolving US attack on Iraq is clear. While the US pushes rhetoric of liberation, the European English-language press consistently highlight the US imperialist, oil-driven agenda; the enormous potential for a long, dirty, difficult war; and the lack of public support in the US, Europe, and across the world. While these issues may be covered in the US press, the fundamental difference in Europe is the acknowledgement of and attitude towards the US monopoly.

While the US press may think this is a positive thing, it has created at best a cynical, and at worst a completely disparaging view of US omnipotence recently surmised by Jack Ashley in the Guardian, "We caricature today's America as a flabby, divided and sentimental empire, led by an idiot: but it is also, at moments, the warlike republic of old, with a self-certainty no other country has known for generations. Today the UN is the flag and theory of the world order: but America, like it's Coke, is the real thing."

In Europe it is widely understood that the US is acting on an imperialist agenda, driven primarily by the need for cheap, dependable oil supplies to fuel market growth, the US's main imperialist tactic. The 8 European leaders who kowtowed to Bush in their letter of support for shared values of freedom are working furiously to erase the divide between Europe and the US, hoping to preserve their assumed status as the 'United States of Europe' within US-lead capitalist world domination. As proof of US-EU power dynamics, the US has in fact offered EU membership to several new NATO states in the Balkans—without first checking with the EU! France and Germany are indeed representing the 'Old Europe' of Rumsfeld's pontifications, because they are unwilling to capitulate to their roles as US puppet markets and support the US war effort.

It is impossible for Europeans to forget

In Barcelona, people in the most comfortable upper middle classes are not only vocally against the war but against the capitalist system as well. They are able to point directly to capitalism as the cause of world environmental destruction and hollow existence but feel powerless to change things. "What is there to do about it," they say, "besides be nice to people and live comfortable lives?"

Thus, several things are clear: well-informed people across the world don't go for US imperialist shit. At the same time national governments don't give a damn. The pitfalls of capitalism are blindingly obvious and people are ready to work towards change, but they don't know where to start!

Revolutionary thinkers need to step up and articulate ways of radically changing the capitalist system, and lives within the system, by presenting ideas that people across society and the world can grasp. The anti-war movement is strong within the US and Europe, and with education and organizing, has the potential to refocus the anti-globalization movement into an anti-capitalist movement.

This war is proposed for the sake of the US market, which, if you believe the Business section, has been primarily supported over recent months by that catchphrase, 'consumer confidence'. If growth is what the US government is after, we must stop growth in order to stop the war. To be more than a newspaper article and a global morale boost, anti-war movements must adopt tactics to force economic slowdowns while simultaneously providing infrastructures that would be lost in the slowdown process.

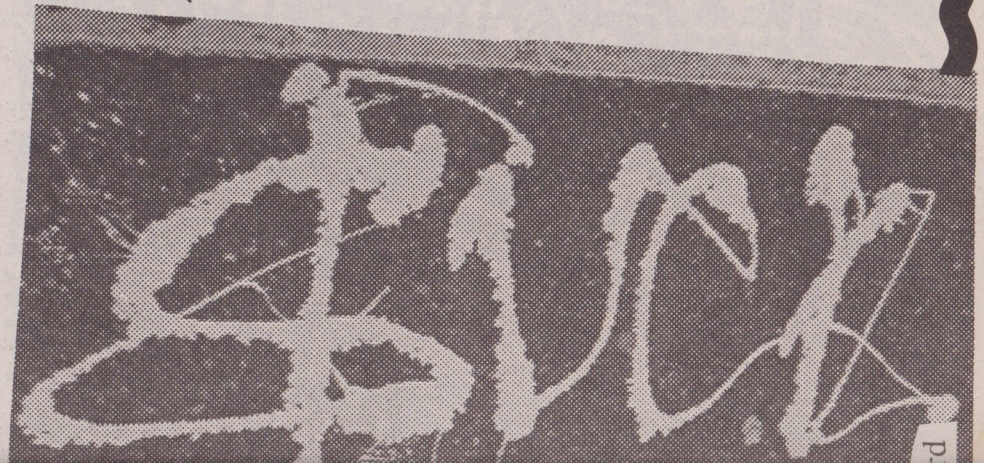
Consumer confidence, the willingness of people to purchase and consume, is a giant force. To stop the war, world environmental destruction, and US imperialism, we must replace consumer confidence, essentially the

infrastructure (despite publicized US plans to immediately protect the oil fields upon attack). European press seems less willing to assume that America's capability and might will quash opposition or prod a coup within Iraq. European press entertains Saddam's many strategic options, including forcing the war into cities (maximizing civilian death), into the desert (minimizing press coverage opportunities), and using friendly foreign pressure to keep the war away from Baghdad. Recently, in an effort to prevent a repeat of US-dominated war images from the Gulf War, Saddam has installed approximately 10 underground media outlets. Although commentators entertain the possibility of a quick, clean war, necessary for further US imperialist aims, people lean more towards the sad prospect of a world completely destabilized by a difficult war, expensive oil prices, and intensely inflamed Islamic anti-western actions.

Even within the European corporate world, concerns about the war run deep in comparison to the ever-buoyant optimism of US multinationals (particularly that of US oil

corporations, who just might drown in their saliva as their Bush admin. cohorts prepare Iraq's oil fields to be carved up). While war fears have driven the the Dow Jones industrial down since Jan. 1, markets in western Europe have also taken severe falls. Is the war truly Bush's economic stimulus plan, people ask?

With the exception of Britain, it's hard to find a public in Europe that supports the war. People are strongly against a war without UN support, and even with UN backing, public support is scattered. Moreover, people here know that there's a strong anti-war movement within the US, and that even though US public support grew after Bush's State of the Union address, it's quite possible that, like during Vietnam, public support will quickly wane. But it's also popular here to portray the US public as hopelessly addicted to cheap gas and MTV, happily oblivious as the US marches towards the mirage of cheap oil and the European public watches in horror.



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It is impossible for Europeans to forget that oil fuels the US market machine, or that Saudi Arabia, with 25% of the known oil reserves, is on the cusp of becoming an anti-US Muslim fundamentalist regime. Between Al-Qaeda's Saudi roots, and the political turmoil in Venezuela, the US is forced to look elsewhere—towards Iraq, of course—to ensure continued market growth. In fact, some people are suggesting that France is hanging back from war support in order to secure better oil contracts for its own companies in Iraq.

Ultimately, most people believe that France will not have the power (or desire) to block US endeavors within the UN Security Council.

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Consumer confidence, the willingness of people to purchase and consume, is a giant force. To stop the war, world environmental destruction, and US imperialism, we must replace consumer confidence, essentially the American way of life, with confidence in the power of people to provide for ourselves.

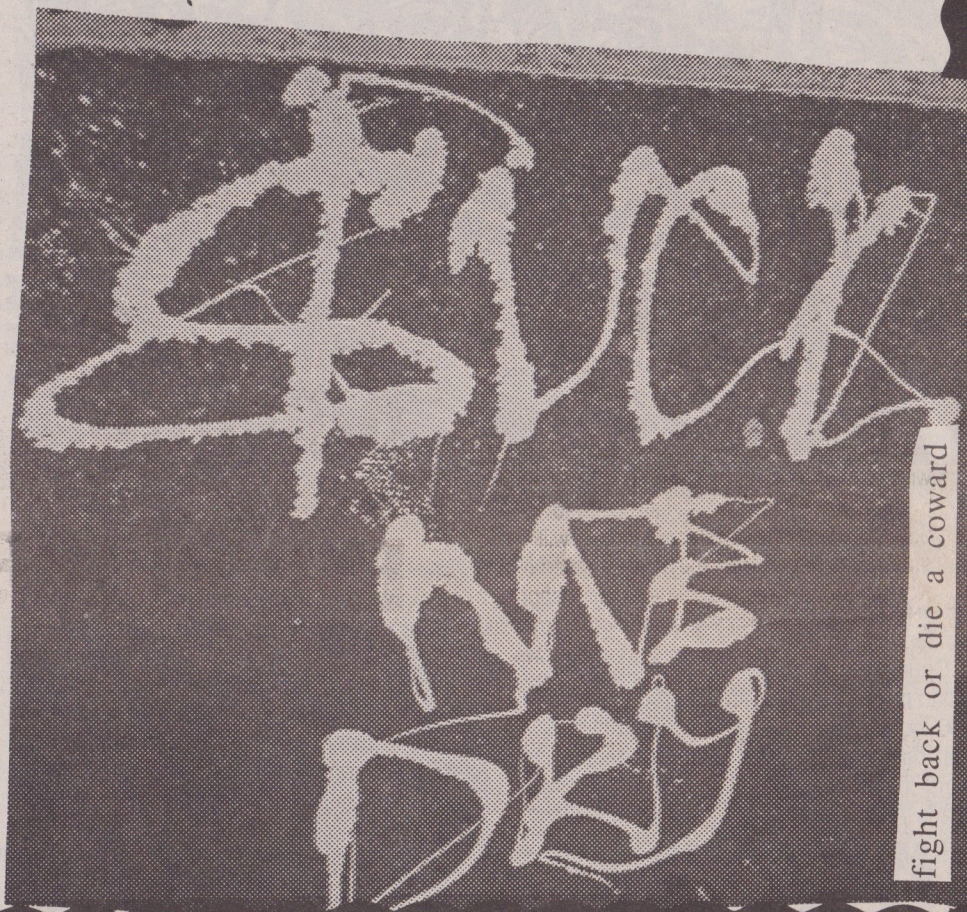
Although people continue to wistfully talk about 'the rule of international law' it is easy to see the UN as just one more tool of the US. In this sense, people here perceive the US as both an imperialist and a rogue state, operating outside of and in disregard to international law.

Despite obvious US war motives, the biggest fear in Europe seems to be that the war will not be a clean, quick war for the US, like in Afghanistan. Discussion centers around the potential for a long, dirty war, complete with destruction of Iraq's already decaying oil

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bush's oily moral playground

By Patchouli Paw

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People in the US are now in a very uncomfortable position. The government of the territory we live in is preemptively attacking other countries. It has accumulated the largest military on earth. It appears bent on empire and total world domination. It is ruled by a group of men who are very skillful in

Our position is uncomfortable because you can't avoid making this choice. To remain silent, to go about our business while the US empire slaughters our people — this is to choose to be an American — to support the

reserves, is on the cusp of becoming an anti-US Muslim fundamentalist regime. Between Al-Qaeda's Saudi roots, and the political turmoil in Venezuela, the US is forced to look elsewhere—towards Iraq, of course—to ensure continued market growth. In fact, some people are suggesting that France is hanging back from war support in order to secure better oil contracts for its own companies in Iraq.

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By Patchouli Paw

By the time you read this, it appears likely that the US government will be at war with Iraq. It's hard to believe this could happen—that the US could fight such a bald war of aggression.

We have been born here on the most beautiful planet filled with light and colors and creatures and wonder. Our bodies, our voices, our minds offer so many opportunities for joy, pleasure, creation and love.

But somehow, amid all the beauty of life, the most violent, most hateful men have risen to power. All our human intelligence and creativity over the centuries has given these hateful men terrible weapons. These men rule the world's richest, most powerful land.

What went wrong that they are driven to kill, destroy and hate? What went wrong that they would use lies and fear to justify the unjustifiable? How can these men be so self-satisfied, so smug, and so comfortable in their business suits while they order murder?

You don't need to be a moral scholar to be against this war. It's something you learn when

you're 5 years old on the playground: you don't hit first. You don't start a fight against another kid whose not trying to fight you. You don't make up lies about what the other kids is doing to justify hitting first, and then hit first. You don't go across the world to hit a kid first in his front yard when that kid can't get to your neighborhood.

Yes, things seem more complex to Bush in Bush's world—this kid has oil.

Is this merely a psychological defect in a small number of rich, white, powerful men? Were they denied breastfeeding? Were they punished for masturbating?

No. Life on this planet left to itself is full of beauty and love. But somehow, human society has become diseased. It promotes death, not life. It organizes suffering, not joy. Most individual people know this, but aren't sure how to escape the structures we have built around ourselves like a prison. Like a grave.

Out of the killing in Iraq and beyond, let us hope enough people see what power and authority has done. Lest we all be destroyed.

SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

By Terry Ist

People in the US are now in a very uncomfortable position. The government of the territory we live in is preemptively attacking other countries. It has accumulated the largest military on earth. It appears bent on empire and total world domination. It is ruled by a group of men who are very skillful in their use of fear, nationalism and lies to sway the population. These men aren't accountable to anyone—if they want to order war, they are free to do so and no one can stop them.

But those of us living in the US don't have to cooperate with this madness.

Those of us living here, in the heart of the aggressor, are in an uncomfortable position because we have to choose—are we Americans, or are we human beings on the planet Earth? If we're human beings, we need to stand with the rest of the World, against America. Against this aggressor nation. We need to refuse to cooperate. We need to actively prevent the empire from killing our people—the people of the world. We need to join the war, and fight on the side of the people of the world, and against the USA.

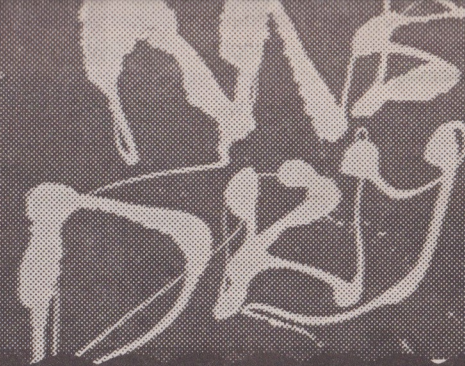
This is a profoundly uncomfortable position because if we stand with the people of the world, our lives are at risk. We may be shot, blown up, tortured—killed by the aggressor American empire. If we stand with America, then we are already dead, for we have lost our soul and our humanity to ally ourselves with a monster of murder and domination.

Our position is uncomfortable because you can't avoid making this choice. To remain silent, to go about our business while the US empire slaughters our people—this is to choose to be an American—to support the empire. Your work, your participation, your money, your silence makes the murder possible.

Now is not the time to be a good American and cooperate, even passively, with military aggression and murder.

If you think you can just wait this war out because it's against someone else far away, think again. While the US has been building up its troops in the Middle East, the government has been proceeding with plans for a vastly expanded domestic surveillance and security state. In the same way that the US regime seeks total world military domination, the regime must also seek total internal military domination.

The US may be able to attack and defeat Iraq. But history has never permanently rewarded those who use naked military aggression. America's war is going to unite the entire world against the American empire. When those of us here fight America, we join the rest of the world. And we ultimately struggle for our own liberation, because in seeking total power, the US empire must first defeat and destroy its own people.



fight back or die a

step it up

PUNK! By

ASTROTURF



I moved out to the San Francisco Bay Area about a year and a half ago, burnt out from organizing on the East Coast, I hoped to find a radical utopia that would invigorate me to organize once again. What I found was swarms of liberals, separate groups of judgmental disillusioned activists, and dozens of the most boring marches and rallies I have ever attended. Eventually, I stopped attending protests and began focusing my energies elsewhere in the radical community.

I was delighted to spot a black block flier for a breakaway march (laughing at the 'wear comfortable black clothing') on January 18. Feeling optimistic I broke out my old bandanna, camera, action first aid kit, and again decided to lend my voice and body to the anarchist tradition I'd been missin'.

I was not disappointed. The streets of San Francisco were packed with an estimated

JANUARY 18, 2003

By Kim Phillips-Fein

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By the time all of you read this, the March on Washington against war in Iraq in late January will have started to recede into distant memory. Right now, we can still hope for peace, but perhaps the United States will have started to bomb Iraq (hey, maybe even North Korea!) by the time this issue of *Slingshot* hits the stands. Journalism lags behind history, and some might say that the January march will be irrelevant if there's a war. The reality, though, is just the opposite. Whatever course of action the Bush administration takes, the January 18, 2003, March on Washington will remain a crucial day for the antiwar movement and for radical politics in the United States. For many who were there, it will be remembered as the day that American politics underwent a quantum shift.

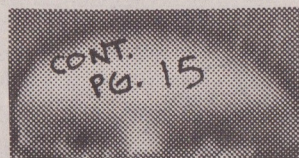
The January march — held on one of the most frigid days of a bitter East Coast winter, as though to test people's resolve — showed once and for all that ordinary American people are not unified around war and empire. Perhaps the most amazing thing about it was simply its size, especially given the news blackout that our media often gives to protests and to demonstrations. The rally filled up about two-thirds of the Washington Mall (the space between the Washington Monument and the Capitol, where Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" speech was given). At about 1:00, people started marching the two-mile route to the Washington Navy Yard, a neighborhood where a lot of

500,000 DEMAND AN END TO THE WAR

End Racism (A.N.S.W.E.R.), a group affiliated with the Workers' World Party, it didn't really seem to make any difference in terms of who came to the march or what it felt like — a sign that some of the people who wish there was a different anti-war movement should just get out there and do some organizing instead of carping and making it harder for the people who are doing the work.

Even more astounding than the size of the crowd was how radical it was. The march was a cross-section of the American population, but it had a sharp class politics. There were lots of signs about the economics and class politics of war: "How Did Our Oil Get Under Their Sand?" "Bush, Iraq is Not Your Ranch." "I Won't Kill for Big Oil." "Draft Jenna and Barbara." "New Yorkers Against War" (with a big picture of the Twin Towers). "Remember the Maine...was a Lie." The veterans' organizations were fired up and noisy. Even the religious groups, of whom there were plenty, carried hard-edged signs: "Who Would Jesus Bomb?" Some people carried "Peace is Patriotic" signs, even some reading "Middle

their kids to kill and die there, or going themselves — is going to make them one iota better off.



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I was not disappointed. The streets of San Francisco were packed with an estimated 200,000 determined protesters. Immediately I made my way to the breakaway march.

A mixed group of black block, pink block, punks, radicals without stylistic statements, and confused liberals 1000 strong took to the streets. We ended with approximately 200 after a militant tour of San Francisco that visited the financial center, smashing windows and graffitizing symbols of US oppression and capitalist filth, such as the SF Chronicle, CitiCorp, Victoria's Secret (has anyone figured out what it is yet???), the INS building, and the anarchist delight—Starbucks. Two were arrested and later had all charges dismissed. No injuries were reported.

I left the escapade excited, my head whirring with thoughts and questions. The militancy, size, and organization of the march demonstrated the growing anti-capitalist movements' vitality. Clearly, January 18, 2003 was an important turning point. Still, it left me with the same questions I always have after smashing up a city...what next? what else?

How many newspaper boxes must we knock over before war is ended? How many windows must we smash before we effectively smash the state? Where is our discipline and focus?

Additionally, the near complete absence of police presence or intervention reminded me that change never comes without sacrifice and struggle. We are on the verge of a shift in

started to bomb Iraq (hey, maybe even North Korea!) by the time this issue of *Slingshot* hits the stands. Journalism lags behind history, and some might say that the January march will be irrelevant if there's a war. The reality, though, is just the opposite. Whatever course of action the Bush administration takes, the January 18, 2003, March on Washington will remain a crucial day for the antiwar movement and for radical politics in the United States. For many who were there, it will be remembered as the day that American politics underwent a quantum shift.

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People came to Washington from all over the country: New York, Texas, North Carolina, Maine, Vermont, Chicago, Kansas, Washington, Connecticut, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Iowa were just some of the signs that I saw. There were about 25 buses from New York City's Local 1199/SEIU, the health and hospital workers' union. People of all ages were at the march, from tons of high school students to the Grey Panthers from Detroit. While liberals have been shrieking about how the marches have been organized by Act Now to Stop War and

END TO THE

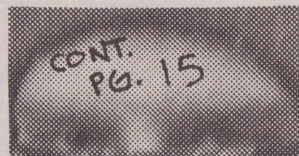
End Racism (A.N.S.W.E.R.), a group affiliated with the Workers' World Party, it didn't really seem to make any difference in terms of who came to the march or what it felt like — a sign that some of the people who wish there was a different anti-war movement should just get out there and do some organizing instead of carping and making it harder for the people who are doing the work.

Even more astounding than the size of the crowd was how radical it was. The march was a cross-section of the American population, but it had a sharp class politics. There were lots of signs about the economics and class politics of war: "How Did Our Oil Get Under Their Sand?" "Bush, Iraq is Not Your Ranch." "I Won't Kill for Big Oil." "Draft Jenna and Barbara." "New Yorkers Against War" (with a big picture of the Twin Towers). "Remember the Maine...was a Lie." The veterans' organizations were fired up and noisy. Even the religious groups, of whom there were plenty, carried hard-edged signs: "Who Would Jesus Bomb?" Some people carried "Peace is Patriotic" signs, even some reading "Middle Class Homeowners for Peace" and "Soccer Moms for Peace." Given the hysteria about A.N.S.W.E.R., such signs were quietly polemical. But they were also in the minority.

The anti-globalization movement and the revitalization of the labor movement helped bring a radical economics politics to the anti-war demonstration. But it also suggested that people aren't going to experience this new era of war as protecting in their interests. Many people today know perfectly well that a war in Iraq — or Afghanistan, or Pakistan, or anywhere else — isn't really about them. It isn't going to make ordinary people in this country any safer or happier. It isn't going to help them organize unions or get health insurance or find a job or make a living wage. It isn't even going to protect them against terrorism. It's just going to ask them to give their lives. The boom is over, the fantasies of the 1990s have gone up in smoke, and most people don't see how bombing a country on the other side of the globe — let alone sending

WAR

their kids to kill and die there, or going themselves — is going to make them one iota better off.



punks, radicals without stylistic statements, and confused liberals 1000 strong took to the streets. We ended with approximately 200 after a militant tour of San Francisco that visited the financial center, smashing windows and graffitizing symbols of US. oppression and capitalist filth, such as the SF Chronicle, CitiCorp, Victoria's Secret (has anyone figured out what it is yet???), the INS building, and the anarchist delight—Starbucks. Two were arrested and later had all charges dismissed. No injuries were reported.

I left the escapade excited, my head whirring with thoughts and questions. The militancy, size, and organization of the march demonstrated the growing anti-capitalist movements' vitality. Clearly, January 18, 2003 was an important turning point. Still, it left me with the same questions I always have after smashing up a city...what next? what else?

How many newspaper boxes must we knock over before war is ended? How many windows must we smash before we effectively smash the state? Where is our discipline and focus?

Additionally, the near complete absence of police presence or intervention reminded me that change never comes without sacrifice and struggle. We are on the verge of a shift in consciousness that is prompting us to rise to the occasion.

The time has come to step forward, utilizing the momentum and vigor of this anti-war climate to inspire those in fear to rise up and defy. Only truly daring statements can convince others that the sacrifice is worth the reward.

A lock down on a bridge, a hunger strike in a school hallway, strategic blockades...creative and daring declarations of conviction in different places every day, everywhere—each one inspiring and giving courage to those too afraid to stand up; this is what it will take to move forward. It is the daring action of one person that has often inspired mass movements.

Block up for mass demonstrations but take it a step forward and stand up as individuals or in small groups and disrupt, speak up, and push for a new world with creativity and militancy the next day as well.

A Tree Named Jerry?! a sitting story

Dragon fly, wren, fireweed, lupine, sequoia, butterfly...

Are these names of forest-dependant species? Yes, in a manner of speaking... They are the arboreal dwellers of the Homo sapien variety who are standing-and sitting-strong to defend the remaining old growth trees. And then there are the names they have given their host trees: Luna, Mariah, Moment, Marvelous, Mesmerize, Jezebel, Jerry... A tree named Jerry?! Its not for me to second-guess the inter-species relationships that develop. Those bonds are deep and give strength to those riding out 50-mph winds and torrential rains under flimsy tarps on a 4-ft. by 6-ft. platform.

The tactic of tree-sitting has blossomed in recent months on California's north coast. Most tree-sits rotate people through, and while Pacific Lumber Company (PL) employed climbers have dismantled some, a few have been up for extended periods of time. Remedy celebrated her 28th birthday in the tree Jerry on Jan. 3, about 2 weeks prior to her 10-month anniversary. Wren, a young woman from New Jersey, climbed into her perch within shouting distance of Remedy last May, and Mystique, who climbed a tree in September still remains aloft.

where old growth trees are being logged nearly across the road from the Avenue of the Giants. Tree-dwellers are holding strong there since early November, riding through assaults from PL employees, confiscation of gear, and on Nov. 16, the physical extraction of two young forest defenders from high in trees. PL's climber Eric strapped harnesses on the two while they were naked, used pain compliance holds and lowered them down to the waiting cameras of other PL workers. After spending three weeks in jail with an outrageous \$100,000 bail, 19-year-old "Abstract" Jane Marsh, along with her colleague Jaime who likewise spent 3 weeks incarcerated, filed a complaint against the climbers and Pacific Lumber. Prominent political attorney Tony Serra has taken their case.

The art of arboreal living has deep roots, as it were, both in the eco-direct action movement and otherwise. The aboriginal tree people of New Guinea called Mava live in tree houses 75 feet up and developed a sophisticated yodeling-like language to call from tree to tree. The Efe, an African pygmy tribe climb trees to gather fruit, and often gather in the canopy in numbers approaching two dozen, using vines to bridge their way between trees. Malaysia's Javak people are expert tree climbers and

bring a powerful symbolism to any forest campaign, as well as mainstream support, fascination, magic and heart. There is no more powerful way to exhibit a commitment to the forest than to embrace it as it holds you in its branches while its family falls around it. The level of risk and personal sacrifice is a statement of the urgency of an issue that needs no verbal articulation. There are also great rewards. Life in the canopy brings one close to a world most of us never have the privilege of observing. There are species, like tree voles, that rarely venture to the ground—a whole community of flora and fauna that is endemic to the forest canopy.

But what the sitters also bear witness to, all too often, is huge trees crashing to the forest floor, shaking their own tree, and low-flying helicopters creating wind storms high in the branches as they haul trees out on long cables. Tree-sitting is a tactic that is not an end unto itself, but an awesome act of commitment and courage that brings us all closer to our goals. Support your local tree-sitter!

Tree sits always need material support (gear, food, batteries), money for cell phone bills and ground support. For information, call North Coast Earth First! at 707-225-0500.

Tired of the Name 'Butterfly?'

By Taow

You know all those groovy forest names all the Earth Firsters! are always using? Well, somehow they just don't seem appropriate for us urban activists. I mean, calling yourself Butterfly or Lichen or Moss or Mushroom when you hardly ever venture beyond the streets that connect your apartment to the subway to work to the cafe to the laundry-mat — where's the Lichen?

But there *are* good reasons to use something like forest names. In this time of increased domestic repression of activists — when almost any expression of protest can get you labeled as a terrorist or even an enemy combatant — it might be a good idea to be a bit vague about who you really are. I mean, if you're planning on going to a million person anti-war march where people may storm the Bay Bridge or the local army base or oil refinery, best not to bring your drivers license ID. And because the government has undercover cops spread out in every crowd, because there are fancy listening devices installed around the city and the video cameras can read your lips, don't let your friends holler your real name in the heat of the riot.

Here are some good urban names that we thought of that more correctly express the reality of modern urban activism. These are the wonderful things our urban industrial world brings us, just like the forest activists name themselves after the wonderful things provided by the natural world. Feel free to send us your own ideas: Asphalt, Barcode, BART, Biohazard, Boxcutter, Cinder Block, Concrete, Cubicle, Drain, Exhaust, Gas pump, Girder, Gridlock, Gutter, Jackhammer, Latté, Loft, Lugnut, Methle Bromide, Overpass, Parking Lot, Pesticide, Roadkill, Sawzall.

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Those three women are in the Freshwater watershed, home to the majority of the tree-sits. There are also sits in the Mattole, on Gypsy Mountain (where activist David Gypsy Chain was killed by an angry logger in 1998) and in nearby Grizzly Creek where PL is logging in occupied marbled murrelet habitat.

PL climbers recently dismantled a tree-sit in the company's "Demonstration Forest"

where old growth trees are being logged nearly across the road from the Avenue of the Giants. Tree-dwellers are holding strong there since early November, riding through assaults from PL employees, confiscation of gear, and on Nov. 16, the physical extraction of two young forest defenders from high in trees. PL's climber Eric strapped harnesses on the two while they were naked, used pain compliance holds and lowered them down to the waiting cameras of other PL workers. After spending three weeks in jail with an outrageous \$100,000 bail, 19-year-old "Abstract" Jane Marsh, along with her colleague Jaime who likewise spent 3 weeks incarcerated, filed a complaint against the climbers and Pacific Lumber. Prominent political attorney Tony Serra has taken their case.

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Earth First! pioneered the tactic in the ancient Douglas fir forest of central Oregon's Millennium Grove in 1985, when a rock climber, arriving on the scene to see what he could do to help, adapted the gear and techniques of his sport to tree climbing.

Tree-sits are rarely about one tree, and

bring a powerful symbolism to any forest campaign, as well as mainstream support, fascination, magic and heart. There is no more powerful way to exhibit a commitment to the forest than to embrace it as it holds you in its branches while its family falls around it. The level of risk and personal sacrifice is a statement of the urgency of an issue that needs no verbal articulation. There are also great rewards. Life in the canopy brings one close to a world most of us never have the privilege of observing. There are species, like tree voles, that rarely venture to the ground—a whole community of flora and fauna that is endemic to the forest canopy.

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From Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters [contact info]

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MEANWHILE, THE LAST PHASE OF THE GROUND WAR COMMENCES....



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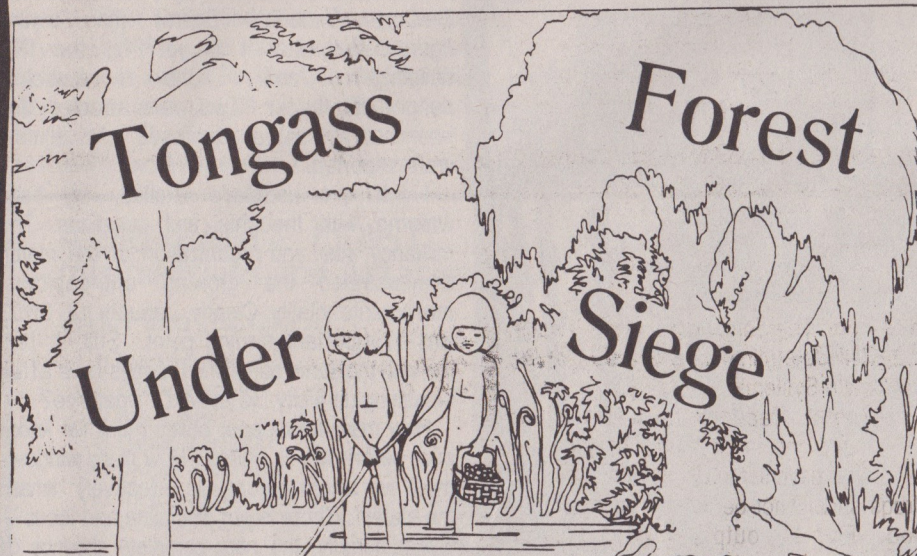
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MEANWHILE, THE LAST PHASE OF THE GROUND WAR COMMENCES....



By Pippi the Rat (with intrusive SS editing)

The Tongass National Forest, located in southeast Alaska, covers 16.7 million acres and is one the last virgin coastal rain forests still relatively untouched by industry. That's over twice the size of, say, Connecticut. These forests are currently under siege by the timber industry, and an influx of direct action activists is needed to save them.

Thirty percent of the intact coastal temperate rainforest in the WORLD is right here in Southeast Alaska in the Tongass National Forest. Much of the Tongass is rock, ice and muskeg; the "productive" forest — sitka spruce, western hemlock and yellow cedar — is only one third of that 16.7 million acres. Over half of the high volume old-growth has already been removed; by contrast only 10% of the low volume timber has been removed.

This year marks the centennial anniversary of the Tongass. The National Forest Service's "celebration" consist of special publications, talks, presentations, and other forms of congratulatory fanfare. But while the confetti settles, the timber industry is just getting started.

In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act. This protected 5.4 million acres of the Tongass, most of it conveniently rock and ice. Right now the rest of the Tongass is under a Resource and Land Management Plan (TLMP) which was originally released in 1997. This plan utterly fails to protect 44 wild and scenic watersheds, which are believed to contain half of the salmon-producing streams in the Tongass. It also leaves open to development 18 high value community use areas. Forty percent of the families in the area get a quarter of their yearly food supply off the land in these community use zones and most are outraged by their potential destruction. The plan also fails to protect marbled murrelets, Alexander wolves and Queen Charlotte goshawks, among other species.

In 1997 the TLMP release was immediately met with thirty-three separate appeals from various environmental organizations, commercial fishers, and individuals living in the Tongass area who depend on it for their inspiration and livelihoods. The appeals resulted in a new TLMP released in 1999. This

revised TLMP comprehensively protected those 44 wild scenic watersheds as well as the 18 high value community use areas. So comprehensively in fact, that the timber companies were forced to challenge the 1999 TLMP and succeeded in reinstituting the original 1997 version in January of 2003.

Currently, the Allowable Sale Quantity stands at 267 million board feet yearly. In 2002, the Forest Service managed to sell only 180 million board sq. feet of Tongass wood. This is despite having prepared for the sales of the full 267 million. It seems that the Feds are desperately pushing Tongass timber on a world market which does not even want or need it.

Southeast Alaska is a land where the mountains jut right out of the ocean and where grizzly bears wander around downtown. The Tongass is home to the largest convention of bald eagles in the world. Surprising to some, the average winter temperature is just above freezing and driving your gas-powered automobile from town to town isn't even an option. The main public transportation is the ferry.

The largest protected wilderness complex in the world (27 million acres, the Glacier Bay, Wrangell-St. Elias, Kluane UNESCO World Heritage area) is in my back yard. There is no place as wild as this in the lower 48. You may think that the difference between 1 million acres and 27 million acres of wilderness is negligible, but you would just be advertising the fact that you have never breathed deeply of the air coming off of a glacier which extends into wild land further than you can really comprehend.

The Tongass is threatened. While there are many mainstream enviros working hard for "safer legislation," there is no EARTH FIRST! movement to get in the way. No crusty ferals lurking in the woods with fire in their eyes, scheming to save these trees and forests, watersheds and wild wolves, brown bears and goshawks. Where are the critters that have devoted their lives to ending the age where Homo Sapiens rape and plunder the natural world in the name of "progress?"

We need you to be here. You need to be here. What are you waiting for?

FCC Raids Berkeley Liberation Radio

Agents of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), accompanied by about a dozen armed U.S. marshals in full SWAT team regalia, raided Berkeley Liberation Radio (BLR — 104.1-FM) December 11. This was to serve a *sealed* arrest warrant on our equipment (not on our programmers — so far). They carted off our transmitter and associated gear, antenna, CD players, tape machines, turntables, computer, etc., all of which took years to accumulate. The FCC stated we were in violation of the law, as we had no license to broadcast at that frequency.

At the time that BLR began broadcasting, there was no license class available for BLR's low power transmission. BLR broadcasts 40 watts of power that nicely fit within a small opening in the FM dial and reaches a few miles from the transmitter to serve the local community. Obtaining an FCC license would have required a higher powered transmitter that would have served a different purpose/community (and also required additional thousands of dollars in fees and testing data — beyond the means of a truly community based radio station.)

The new LPFM (low powered FM) licensing class that is now offered by the FCC (in response to the pressure from activists and unlicensed broadcasters such as BLR) was gutted by the National Public Radio and National Association Of Broadcasters lobbied Congress before any new stations hit the airwaves. Congress amended the new LPFM law so that stations could be licensed only if there was an unused gap in the FM dial roughly the size of a Cadillac, or in other words only in

a situation that will arise in your average deep south rural town.

Despite the raid, as of press time, BLR is *Back On The Air* with a different transmitter. BLR has voted to begin broadcasts over the internet. Should the FCC return to seize the new transmitter, internet broadcasts would likely continue, which could begin a cat and mouse game with the FCC, as numerous people not associated with BLR picked up the internet feed and rebroadcast it with their own transmitters from shifting locations.

BLR, which took over 104.1 FM from Free Radio Berkeley which was shut down by an FCC injunction in 1998, has broadcast news and commentary as well as music and spoken word for three years. The station gives youth and others not usually represented in corporate media a chance to learn radio broadcasting skills, to exercise their rights to free speech and discuss issues of community interest.

At the time of the raid, BLR's lawyers were in communication with the FCC about the pending licensing matter. Thus the sudden raid appears to be part of the new climate of repression of civil liberties that is accompanying the recent rush to war. In such times, it is more vital than ever to preserve every citizen's right to free speech and inquiry and to keep all channels of communication open.

For more information, contact BLR at PO Box 5044, Berkeley, CA 94705, berklibradio@juno.com. For more information on the micro power radio movement, contact



Pepper Spay in the Eyes of the Court



Forest activists suing the government whose eyes were swabbed with pepper spray by police during protests in 1997 are finally scheduled for trial on May 12 in the Federal Court of Judge Von Walker. This is the same judge that threw the case out of court saying that no reasonable juror would think that the swabbing of pepper spray with Q-tips directly into the eyes of non-violent protesters would constitute unreasonable force. He has since been overruled strongly by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals claiming "It would be clear to a reasonable officer that using pepper spray against the protesters was excessive under the circumstances."

Judge Von Walker has moved the trial from the Federal Building in San Francisco to Eureka, California.

The activist plaintiffs have offered to settle this case by mediating an agreement with law enforcement to desist using chemical agents on non violent protesters.

The legal team that helped win the Judi Bari case against the FBI and Oakland Police has agreed to work on the trial. Stay tuned for details about court dates and support needed. Your tax-deductible donations are also greatly appreciated and can be sent to the Pepper Spray Fund c/o Trees Foundation, PO Box 2202, Redway, CA 95560.

FREE ED

THE ROSE



Mental Health

Feed

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FREE ED FREE YR HEAD

By Taow

When the Bush administration decided to prosecute marijuana activist and author Ed Rosenthal for growing medical marijuana as an deputized Officer of the City Oakland, the Feds figured they would "make an example" of Ed and try to frighten the whole medical cannabis movement. But, like bungling keystone cops, the whole strategy backfired and ended up making the federal marijuana laws look even stupider than they had looked before.

The DEA was able to get a jury to convict Ed of growing marijuana, but to do so, they had to hide all of the real evidence from the jury. Jurors weren't told that Ed was growing *medical* marijuana or that he was doing so at the behest of the City of Oakland. The government took the added precaution of throwing everyone off the jury who reported that they supported California Proposition 215, a ballot measure passed by a large margin that legalized medical marijuana in California.

Almost immediately after the jury rendered their verdict, they realized what a horrible mistake they had made. Days later, 7 of the 12 jurors protested their own verdict and called for a new trial, saying that if they had known the real facts, they would have acquitted Ed.

At the moment, Ed is free on bail, and various appeals are sure to be filed. If his conviction stands, he will be sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 5 years in jail for growing the plants. The fed decision to pick on an isolated individual, rather than taking action against California's law, is the kind of cruel retribution that seems so popular in these days of war at home and abroad.

While Ed's case has received extensive media attention, the real story are the hundreds of thousands of people who have been arrested, prosecuted, imprisoned — had their lives turned upside down or ruined — in the government's failed war against pot. Despite billions of dollars and untold tides of human suffering, it is clearly impossible to stamp out marijuana. Nor does it make sense — at least a third of the country has tried pot, with no obvious ill effects. (Okay, a few hours of stupidity, perhaps, and some laughing at jokes that weren't funny, but does that really justify a prison term?) A recent poll found that 80 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana.

(source: NY Times, Feb. 05, 2003)

Jury Nullification

At the very least, Ed's case is a good lesson

by MindFreedom.org

When the American Psychiatric Association brings thousands of its members to San Francisco this May, maybe it's time for "mad pride."

Some of the most profitable corporations in the history of the world are in the mental health system, such as the manufacturers of psychiatric drugs. How do we learn about and challenge the domination of these corporations? How can we create viable, humane, empowering alternatives?

On Sunday, May 18, 2003, there will be a nonviolent "freedom rally" in San Francisco in front of the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association at the Moscone Center, 1 pm. The demands: "Human Rights, Choice, Self-Determination & Freedom in the Mental Health System!"

Our mental freedom is under siege internationally and in California. If someone wants to use psychiatric drugs, they can; but the drugs should not be forced, coerced and pushed. Forced outpatient psychiatric drugging is now legal in California, and most US states. That means anyone in California could be court ordered to take powerful, addictive and brain-damaging psychiatric

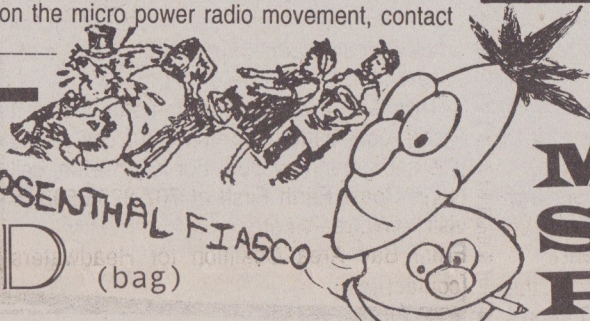
Mental Health System Force Psyche Drugs

the APA pretending to remove homosexuality from its list of labels.

Initial co-sponsors are groups of psychiatric survivors/mental health consumers: MindFreedom - Support Coalition International, California Network of Mental Health Clients, Mental Health Consumer Concerns.

On February 2, a thirty-person planning meeting met all day to help organize activities. Watch for details to be announced about a FREEDOM FAIR on Saturday, May 17, 2003, with booths, exhibits and a town hall to plan out exactly how the inmates will indeed take over the asylums.

This is a preliminary call for action. Updates & final details or if your group is interested in ~~co-sponsoring~~ or endorsing or simply joining the 418 planning e-mail list contact: www.MindFreedom.org; Support Coalition International; 454 Willamette; POB 11284; Eugene, OR 97440 USA; e-mail: office@mindfreedom.org. ph: (541) 345-9106. Toll free. 1-877-MAD-PRIDE



By Taow

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Almost immediately after the jury rendered their verdict, they realized what a horrible mistake they had made. Days later, 7 of the 12 jurors protested their own verdict and called for a new trial, saying that if they had known the real facts, they would have acquitted Ed. The jurors, some of them shaken and in tears at a protest in front of the San Francisco Federal Building, said they felt they had been lied to and used by the government. The whole thing once again shows the heavy hand of the government and the stupid war on drugs. "There is no such thing as medical marijuana," Richard Meyer, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, told the Associated Press. Referring to the conflict between state and federal law, He noted, "We're Americans first, Californians second."

For anyone on any future jury hearing any kind of marijuana charge in California or any other state with medical marijuana laws, this means you'll have to *assume* that the defendant was actually growing medical marijuana, and thus should be acquitted. Since the government is going conceal evidence of medical weed, you can't take the risk of convicting an innocent person. (Check out the screed on jury nullification, below.)

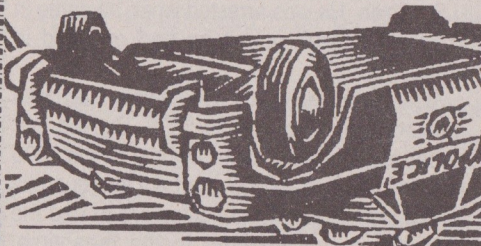
At the moment, Ed is free on bail, and various appeals are sure to be filed. If his conviction stands, he will be sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 5 years in jail for growing the plants. The fed decision to pick on an isolated individual, rather than taking action against California's law, is the kind of cruel retribution that seems so popular in these days of war at home and abroad.

While Ed's case has received extensive media attention, the real story are the hundreds of thousands of people who have been arrested, prosecuted, imprisoned — had their lives turned upside down or ruined — in the government's failed war against pot. Despite billions of dollars and untold tides of human suffering, it is clearly impossible to stamp out marijuana. Nor does it make sense — at least a third of the country has tried pot, with no obvious ill effects. (Okay, a few hours of stupidity, perhaps, and some laughing at jokes that weren't funny, but does that really justify a prison term?) A recent poll found that 80 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana.

(source: NY Times, Feb. 05, 2003)

Jury Nullification

At the very least, Ed's case is a good lesson on the role of jury nullification — the power of a jury to go against a judge's instructions and acquit a defendant if members of the jury decide that the law under which a person is tried is unjust. While the best solution to these problems is to get ride of the DEA, the government, the Courts, etc., until this happens, jury duty provides a great opportunity to impose some "checks and balances" on government authority.



by MindFreedom.org

When the American Psychiatric Association brings thousands of its members to San Francisco this May, maybe it's time for "mad pride."

Some of the most profitable corporations in the history of the world are in the mental health system, such as the manufacturers of psychiatric drugs. How do we learn about and challenge the domination of these corporations? How can we create viable, humane, empowering alternatives?

On Sunday, May 18, 2003, there will be a nonviolent "freedom rally" in San Francisco in front of the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association at the Moscone Center, 1 pm. The demands: "Human Rights, Choice, Self-Determination & Freedom in the Mental Health System!"

Our mental freedom is under siege internationally and in California. If someone wants to use psychiatric drugs, they can; but the drugs should not be forced, coerced and pushed. Forced outpatient psychiatric drugging is now legal in California, and most US states. That means anyone in California could be court ordered to take powerful, addictive and brain-damaging psychiatric drugs against their will.

The Bush Administration is attacking our civil liberties using the mental health system. Bush's latest mental health adviser is an American Enterprise Institute psychiatrist, Sally Satel. Her book on "politically correct medicine" worries that "mental patients are taking over the asylums." Satel recommends that thousands of more Americans be forcibly drugged.

This western-style medical approach to the mental health system is being exported internationally and globalized by new multi-billion dollar programs sponsored by the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

This protest is a good time to unite with other movements impacted by the mental health system such as disability, youth, poor, homeless, women, people of color, peace, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender, and many others. This year is the 30th anniversary of

the APA pretending to remove homosexuality from its list of labels.

Initial co-sponsors are groups of psychiatric survivors/mental health consumers: MindFreedom - Support Coalition International, California Network of Mental Health Clients, Mental Health Consumer Concerns.

On February 2, a thirty-person planning meeting met all day to help organize activities. Watch for details to be announced about a FREEDOM FAIR on Saturday, May 17, 2003, with booths, exhibits and a town hall to plan out exactly how the inmates will indeed take over the asylums.

This is a preliminary call for action. Updates & final details or if your group is interested in ~~co-sponsoring~~ or endorsing or simply joining the 418 planning e-mail list contact: www.MindFreedom.org; Support Coalition International; 454 Willamette; POB 11284; Eugene, OR 97440 USA; e-mail: office@mindfreedom.org. ph: (541) 345-9106. Toll free. 1-877-MAD-PRIDE



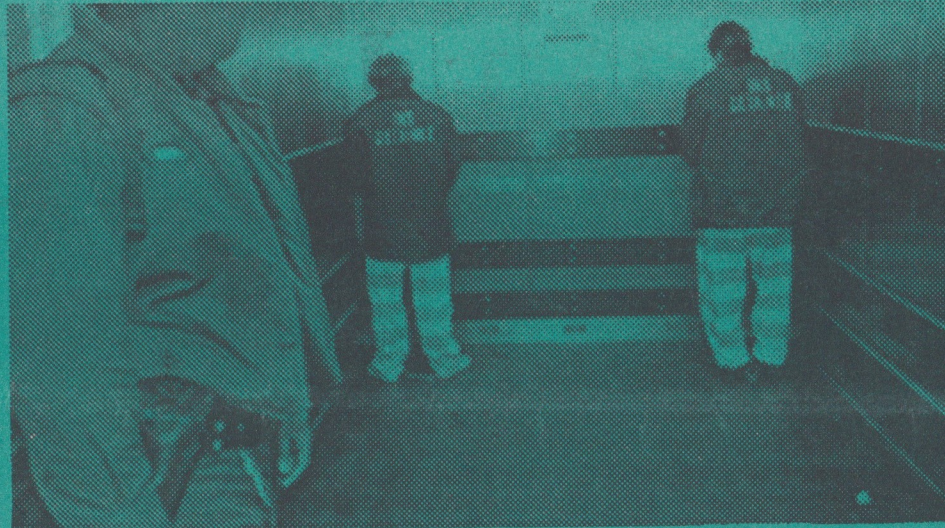
DENY DETAINMENT

As Slingshot goes to press, it is possible funding for the INS Special Registration Program will be killed by Congress. Unless and until it is, check out the following:

In mid-November Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered all male non-citizens age 16 and older who are nationals of certain countries to voluntarily appear at INS offices for photographing, fingerprinting, and interrogation. People from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Liberia, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were required to register. Anyone who failed to register was subject to immediate deportation.

By the end of the first deadline, the INS in southern California had detained 1,000 men and boys, fully a quarter of all those who came to register. The men, mostly Iranians, were held for days in deplorable conditions, denied access to lawyers or their families, packed 30 and 40 into freezing cells with no beds, no showers and inadequate food. The Los Angeles jails were so crowded that hundreds were transported to jails in other states. Mass detentions were also reported in Houston and Cleveland. In all but a handful of cases, those detained had minor problems with their paperwork, often the result of INS bungling. Most have now been released on bail, but must return for INS hearings.

This special registration affects tens of thousands of immigrants from Arab and Muslim countries who are here on valid work



Germany and the internment of Japanese Americans in this country during World War II.

What you should know if you are subject to special registration

You Should Not Report For Special Registration Without First Speaking To An Immigration Lawyer. If INS believes you have violated your non-immigrant status or if a name check produces a "hit," you are likely to be detained by INS and placed in removal [deportation] proceedings. To obtain information about free legal clinics on Special Registration being held in the SF Bay area, please call the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-San Francisco Chapter (AAADC) at 415 861-7444. If you are detained by INS and do not have an attorney, call the National Lawyers Guild INS Hotline at 415 285-1041.

You may be detained for any one of the following reasons (or others) if you report for

- You are no longer working for your H-1 employer;
- You entered the US with K-1 visa but didn't get married

If a friend or family member came with you to special registration and you are arrested or detained, insist on being able to speak with that person before you are moved from the INS building. Ask an INS Detention Officer for your A number and give the number to your friend or family member who you should ask to call your attorney immediately. When you are moved to a new detention facility, call your friend or family member to let them know where you are.

Men who have reported for special registration and have been detained have been held for periods from overnight to ten days or longer. You will be detained until INS or the immigration judge sets a bond in your case and you are able to post the bond. Although you may be eligible for a bond, INS has been

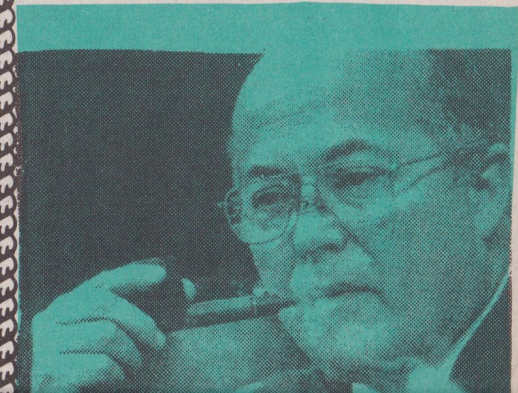


Tot Po

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interrogation. People from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Liberia, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were required to register. Anyone who failed to register was subject to immediate deportation.

By the end of the first deadline, the INS in southern California had detained 1,000 men and boys, fully a quarter of all those who came to register. The men, mostly Iranians, were held for days in deplorable conditions, denied access to lawyers or their families, packed 30 and 40 into freezing cells with no beds, no showers and inadequate food. The Los Angeles jails were so crowded that hundreds were transported to jails in other states. Mass detentions were also reported in Houston and Cleveland. In all but a handful of cases, those detained had minor problems with their paperwork, often the result of INS bungling. Most have now been released on bail, but must return for INS hearings.

This special registration affects tens of thousands of immigrants from Arab and Muslim countries who are here on valid work and study visas. Many of these men have been in this country for years. They are scientists, doctors, teachers, students, and artists. Many of those detained were in the process of becoming permanent residents.

The stated goal of the registration program, which has its origins in the USA Patriot Act, is to counter terrorism. In fact, these mass registrations and detentions are a continuation of a government strategy to criminalize and dehumanize immigrants from Arab, Muslim, and South Asian countries, and to get us all used to restrictions on our basic freedoms in the name of national security. The registration of Arabs and Muslims is chillingly reminiscent of the roundup of the Jews in Nazi

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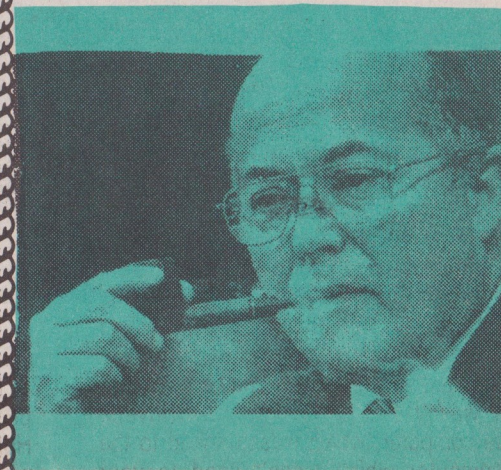
- You have overstayed your non-immigrant visa;
- You have worked without INS authorization;
- You have failed to report for special registration;
- You have had any kind of contact with the police;
- You have failed to appear for an INS court hearing or interview at any time since you arrived in the US;
- You have failed to appear in any court;
- You failed to attend school after being admitted as a nonimmigrant student;
- You have changed employers without obtaining another H-1 visa;

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Men who have reported for special registration and have been detained have been held for periods from overnight to ten days or longer. You will be detained until INS or the immigration judge sets a bond in your case and you are able to post the bond. Although you may be eligible for a bond, INS has been refusing to recommend a bond which means you must wait to be taken before an immigration judge to have a bond set in your case. In some situations, you may be ineligible for a bond because of existing immigration laws. Your bond may be \$1,500 or more. Your family or friends will need to post the bond for you. When your deportation/removal case in the immigration court is completed, the full amount of the bond will be returned to you. If your friends and family do not have enough money to post the bond, they may post a surety bond through a bonding company. This money will not be returned to them and you may have to pay an annual renewal fee to the company.

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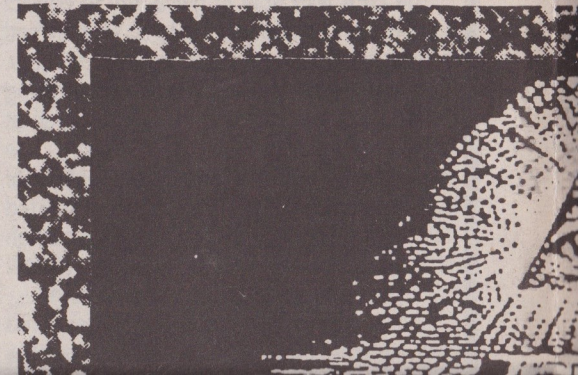
Who is on the Inside?

Accounts from INS Jail

By Roger Calero

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Manuel Garcia, 63, a carpenter from Utah, tells



of those detained in the process of becoming permanent residents.

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On December 3 Roger Calero, a 12-year permanent resident, was arrested by immigration cops at the Houston airport on his way back from a reporting assignment in Guadalajara, Mexico. Released December 10 on his own recognizance after the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) district director was flooded with protest messages from around the world, Calero still faces a deportation hearing.

Houston--"I've worked on a lot of government projects," said Mariano Tovar, a construction worker locked up in this immigration jail together with this reporter.

"I painted the courthouse and the local jail in Nacogdoches," Tovar said. "I even worked on the construction of this jail in 1981."

Recounting his personal story, he ran down a long list of government and other construction projects he had worked on since moving to the United States 34 years ago. Tovar, who was living in Nacogdoches, Texas, northeast of Houston, at the time of his arrest, arrived from Mexico in 1968. He became a permanent resident through the federal government's

Accounts from INS Jail

1986 general amnesty. A year ago he began his application for U.S. citizenship.

El Abuelo (Grandpa), as the younger workers here call Tovar, swapping experiences in the prison dormitory, was arrested a few weeks ago when he went to the INS offices to renew his expired green card. The immigration police is trying to use a conviction from more than 30 years ago as grounds to deport him.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, passed in 1996, expanded the number of crimes for which a person could be deemed "deportable," including offenses as minor as trespassing or joyriding. The INS has sought to impose its own interpretation of the law by applying it retroactively, that is, to convictions that took place before the law was enacted.

One of the workers locked up here, originally from Nigeria, is facing deportation over a trespassing charge. What was his crime? Working as a door-to-door salesman and having the back luck of knocking on the door of a Houston cop.

Deportation on this basis can mean not only losing your job but your retirement benefits.

Manuel García, 63, a carpenter from Utah, tells Tovar and others that this is what he faces if deported on the basis of a 1987 conviction. He has lived and worked in this country since 1974, gained his permanent residence 16 years ago, and would be eligible for retirement benefits next year.

"They let us work and work, and then when we get old, they want to throw us out," said Tovar.

Many of those here were arrested after reporting to INS offices in order to renew a work permit or follow up on a pending application. For example, Artemio Monroy, 28, a hotel worker from Houston, was applying for his permanent residence through his wife, a U.S. citizen. He was arrested when he came in to renew a work permit he had received in 2000.

Monroy, originally from Guatemala, had been granted political asylum in 1992. But the INS issued a deportation order against him in 1996 after the Guatemalan government and guerrilla forces signed a political settlement to end the civil war in that country. In the meantime, Monroy has married and has a one-year old



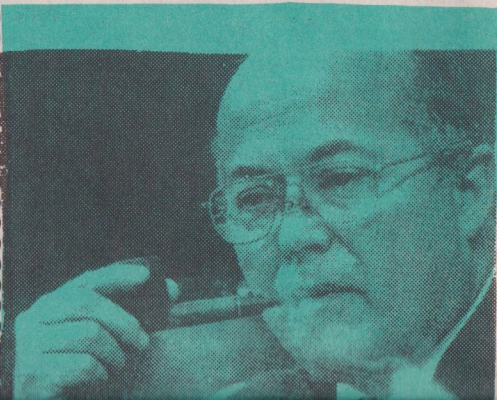


TOTAL INFORMATION AWARENESS OFFICE POINDEXTER ON THE LOOSE

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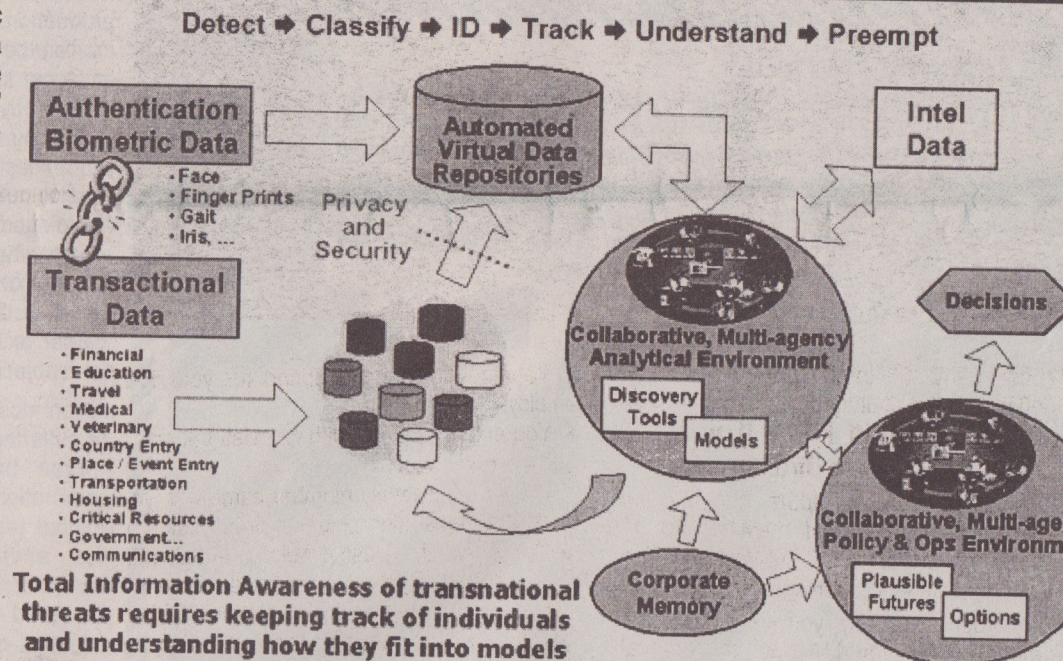


Note: the TIA website does not define "terrorist."

Data-mining is the broad search of public and non-public databases in the absence of a particularized suspicion about a person, place or thing. Data mining looks for "suspicious" patterns of relationships between routine computer tracked transactions and people.

TIA is a significant departure from traditional security and intelligence efforts because the program is designed to watch data from everyone in the world, whether there is any reason whatsoever to think they may be doing something illegal or not. Thus, it is a shift from a world in which the government might investigate some people because they are acting "suspicious" to a world in which the government watches everyone all the time to decide if they are acting "suspicious." The very concept of privacy is rendered obsolete by the creation of an all-observing government agency like TIA.

In modern society, a person's whole life is routinely recorded as they have daily interactions with computers. Prior to the TIA proposal, this led to the *theoretical* possibility of a world in which every step of our lives were observed and tracked. The possibility was *theoretical* because our daily actions were noted by many different computers owned by many different entities — no one computer added up all the different bits of information to form a coherent and complete picture of everyone's activities. The computer from your credit card company wasn't linked to the supermarket's computer



technology gets linked with the ever increasing number of video cameras being installed throughout the world. Government officials have already begun to routinely collect DNA samples in a variety of contexts from prisons to schools, raising the future possibility of linking genetic data into a TIA computer.

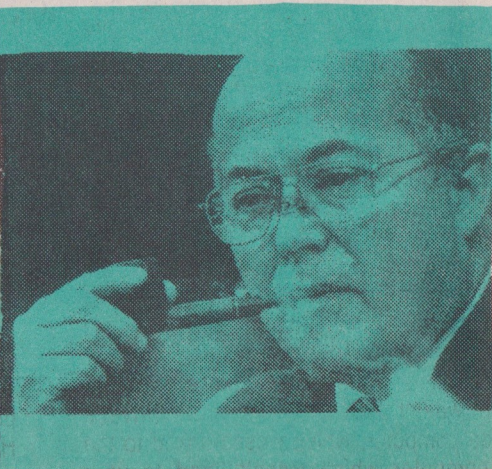
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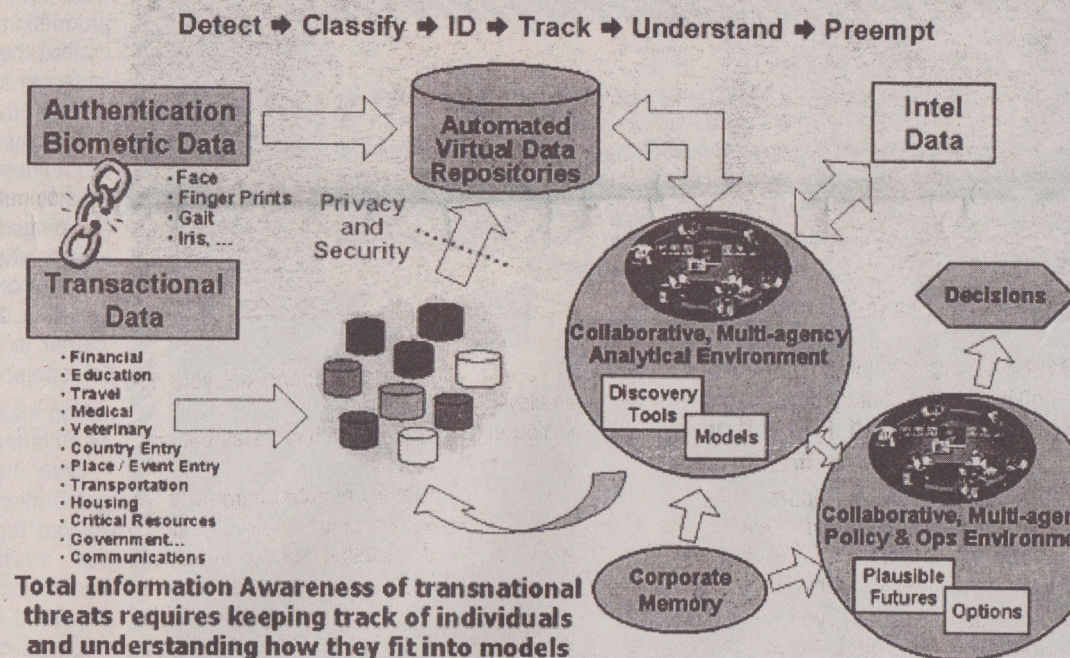
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The purpose of the TIA is to link up the data from all of these various sources and create a single, mega-database which gives its owner a very thorough picture of everyone's lives. The owners of the data would work in secret, unaccountable to the common people, using billions of taxpayer dollars. The idea gets even more Orwellian if the federal government institutes a national ID card which must be repeatedly scanned, or if face recognition



technology gets linked with the ever increasing number of video cameras being installed throughout the world. Government officials have already begun to routinely collect DNA samples in a variety of contexts from prisons to schools, raising the future possibility of linking genetic data into a TIA computer.

The TIA is such a significant change from prior police practice that the recently passed Homeland Security Act had to change laws which had previously prohibited US government agencies from spying on US citizens. This was necessary to permit construction of TIA.

Another tidbit worth knowing: Poindexter, the old white man in charge, is the same guy who was convicted on five felony counts, including lying to Congress, destroying documents and obstructing Congress in its investigation of the Iran-Contra affair in the mid 1980s.

From the *New York Times*: "It was Admiral Poindexter's technological expertise

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"Clearly Poindexter consciously manipulated the system to act in a way to hide information," Mr. Wallace said. "When faced with a system of checks and balances, he decided to act illegally. What does this say about the person who we are putting in charge of designing the most comprehensive surveillance system on U.S. citizens ever?" (*New York Times*, January 20, 2003).

That's the basic run-down on Poindexter. But let's go a bit further. Please look at the originally conceived logo for the TIA program. (It's since been toned down slightly, due to considerable public reaction. But only

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daughter, and his wife is currently pregnant. If deported he hopes to move back as close to the border as possible to work and help support his family in Houston.



Arrested in post-September 11 sweep "I am convinced that I am here simply because I am Muslim," said Karim Bey Slimani, 27, who was born in Algeria. Slimani has been jailed here since October 2001.

"I am the only one left of those who were locked up here after September 11," he said, reporting that about 40 immigrants from Pakistan and other Middle Eastern countries were brought to this INS jail after that date. Slimani has not been charged with any crime associated with the attack on the Twin Towers. An estimated 1,200 to 2,000 people, mostly immigrants from the Mideast and South Asia, were rounded up over the past year and in many cases held for months without criminal charges. They were often picked up on some minor charge such as not having their immigration papers in order.

Slimani, who had a deportation order dating back to when he first entered the country in 1996, is now being held indefinitely by the INS,

which claims he has not cooperated with "investigation process" in providing documents required to complete paperwork for his deportation.

Despite the fact that the INS has an Algerian birth certificate, which they said they found when they searched his home at the time of his arrest, and despite several phone conferences with Algerian consular officials to verify his identity, the INS deportation officer in charge of his case maintains that Slimani is not a Palestinian, insisting that he does not speak Arabic with a North African accent and that his passport "appears" fake.

Last September 30, having exhausted his administrative appeals with the INS, Slimani filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, seeking a court hearing. The petition promises to lead to a series of violations of his rights.

Under immigration law, a person facing deportation is supposed to be removed within 90 days of receiving a final deportation order, and the period can sometimes be extended for six months.

The day before he was arrested, Slimani received a call from an FBI agent on the phone he uses for his job as a cab driver in Houston. The cop asked Slimani for a meeting. At the meeting, the FBI agent asked him if he knew anyone who had celebrated the September 11 attacks, and went on to ask him if he was Muslim and how often he went to the mosque, Slimani reported. It was during the interrogation that he told the FBI agent he was in a pending deportation case. The next morning the INS arrested him.

The INS then told Slimani that if he had

TOTAL INFORMATION ASSHOLE: POINDEXTER ON THE LOOSE

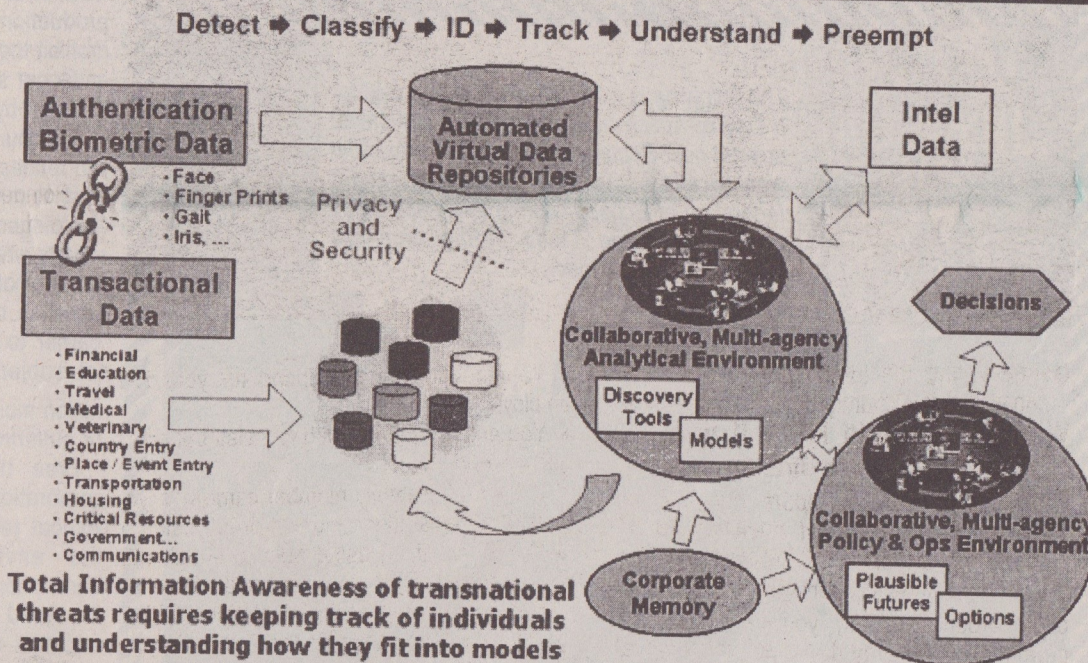


Note: the TIA website does not define "terrorist."

Data-mining is the broad search of public and non-public databases in the absence of a particularized suspicion about a person, place or thing. Data mining looks for "suspicious" patterns of relationships between routine computer tracked transactions and people.

TIA is a significant departure from traditional security and intelligence efforts because the program is designed to watch data from everyone in the world, whether there is any reason whatsoever to think they may be doing something illegal or not. Thus, it is a shift from a world in which the government might investigate some people because they are acting "suspicious" to a world in which the government watches everyone all the time to decide if they are acting "suspicious." The very concept of privacy is rendered obsolete by the creation of an all-observing government agency like TIA.

In modern society, a person's whole life is routinely recorded as they have daily interactions with computers. Prior to the TIA proposal, this led to the *theoretical* possibility of a world in which every step of our lives were observed and tracked. The possibility was *theoretical* because our daily actions were noted by many different computers owned by many different entities — no one computer added up all the different bits of information to form a coherent and complete picture of everyone's activities. The computer from your credit card company wasn't linked to the supermarket's computer



technology gets linked with the ever increasing number of video cameras being installed throughout the world. Government officials have already begun to routinely collect DNA samples in a variety of contexts from prisons to schools, raising the future possibility of linking genetic data into a TIA computer.

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that permitted him to create a back door, named 'private blank check,' in the e-mail system to circumvent normal White House channels, according to David A. Wallace, a specialist in electronic records at the School of Information at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The system made it possible for the admiral to oversee the illegal activities of

slightly.) What's this thing all about?

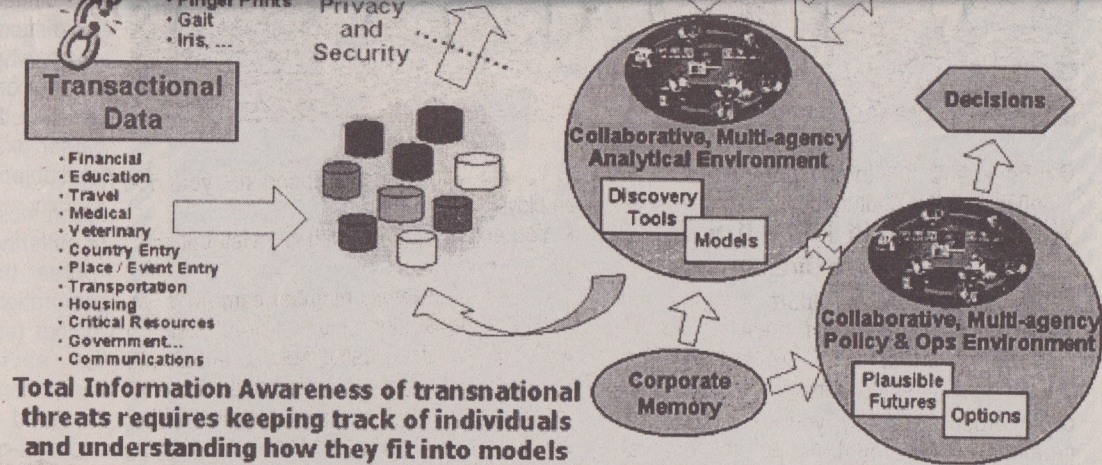
The TIA program is run by the Information Awareness Office (IAO) in DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency). DARPA, by the way, is the same people who invented the Internet...maybe now we're beginning to see why. The motto of IAO is "Scientia Est Potentia," "Knowledge is Power." True enough. (And our-unusual ally William Safire says "Exactly: the government's infinite knowledge about you is its power over you.") Then you have the thirteen-level pyramid with the all-seeing-eye cornerstone unattached, emitting light unto the World. Notice that the light would be shining mostly on North America.

I am not a conspiracy theorist. Quite the opposite, I am talking about these occult symbols because they need to be understood in a more down-to-earth context. Without getting into a full lecture on the influence of Freemasonry on the U.S. government and the history and goal of Freemasonry itself, one can state with absolute certainty that these symbols are of freemasonic origin, as are the symbols on the U.S. dollar bill and the Great Seal of the United States. The number 13 is a favorite with freemasons, as are the symbolic associations of the pyramids of Egypt. When asked about the symbol, Poindexter said "in his mind, the eye had represented the letter I, the pyramid the letter A and the globe the letter O a way of describing his new organization." (New York Times, January 20, 2003) Funny, because "IAO," as an informed freemason would know, is another name for the

traditional security and intelligence efforts because the program is designed to watch data from everyone in the world, whether there is any reason whatsoever to think they may be doing something illegal or not. Thus, it is a shift from a world in which the government might investigate some people because they are acting "suspicious" to a world in which the government watches everyone all the time to decide if they are acting "suspicious." The very concept of privacy is rendered obsolete by the creation of an all-observing government agency like TIA.

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The purpose of the TIA is to link up the data from all of these various sources and create a single, mega-database which gives its owner a very thorough picture of everyone's lives. The owners of the data would work in secret, unaccountable to the common people, using billions of taxpayer dollars. The idea gets even more Orwellian if the federal government institutes a national ID card which must be repeatedly scanned, or if face recognition



Total Information Awareness of transnational threats requires keeping track of individuals and understanding how they fit into models

technology gets linked with the ever increasing number of video cameras being installed throughout the world. Government officials have already begun to routinely collect DNA samples in a variety of contexts from prisons to schools, raising the future possibility of linking genetic data into a TIA computer.

The TIA is such a significant change from prior police practice that the recently passed Homeland Security Act had to change laws which had previously prohibited US government agencies from spying on US citizens. This was necessary to permit construction of TIA.

Another tidbit worth knowing: Poindexter, the old white man in charge, is the same guy who was convicted on five felony counts, including lying to Congress, destroying documents and obstructing Congress in its investigation of the Iran-Contra affair in the mid 1980s.

From the *New York Times*: "It was Admiral Poindexter's technological expertise

that permitted him to create a back door, named 'private blank check,' in the e-mail system to circumvent normal White House channels, according to David A. Wallace, a specialist in electronic records at the School of Information at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The system made it possible for the admiral to oversee the illegal activities of Col. Oliver North."

"Clearly Poindexter consciously manipulated the system to act in a way to hide information," Mr. Wallace said. "When faced with a system of checks and balances, he decided to act illegally. What does this say about the person who we are putting in charge of designing the most comprehensive surveillance system on U.S. citizens ever?" (*New York Times*, January 20, 2003).

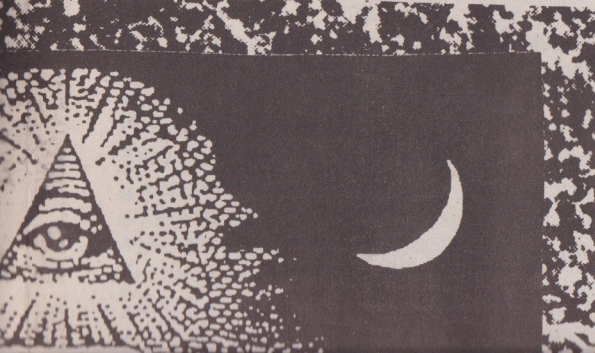
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Continued on page 11



daughter, and his wife is currently pregnant. If deported he hopes to move back as close to the border as possible to work and help support his family in Houston.



which claims he has not cooperated with the "investigation process" in providing travel documents required to complete the paperwork for his deportation.

Despite the fact that the INS has his Algerian birth certificate, which they seized when they searched his home at the time of the arrest, and despite several phone conferences with Algerian consular officials to verify his identity, the INS deportation officer in charge of his case maintains that Slimani is

information about the September 11 attacks, they could help him "resolve" his situation. "He was assuming that we are all terrorists," Slimani said. "The cop then took me to my apartment, where he began searching everywhere. There he found my birth certificate, and \$30,000 I had been saving at home." A few days later, when his uncle stopped by to check on his apartment, the money was gone.

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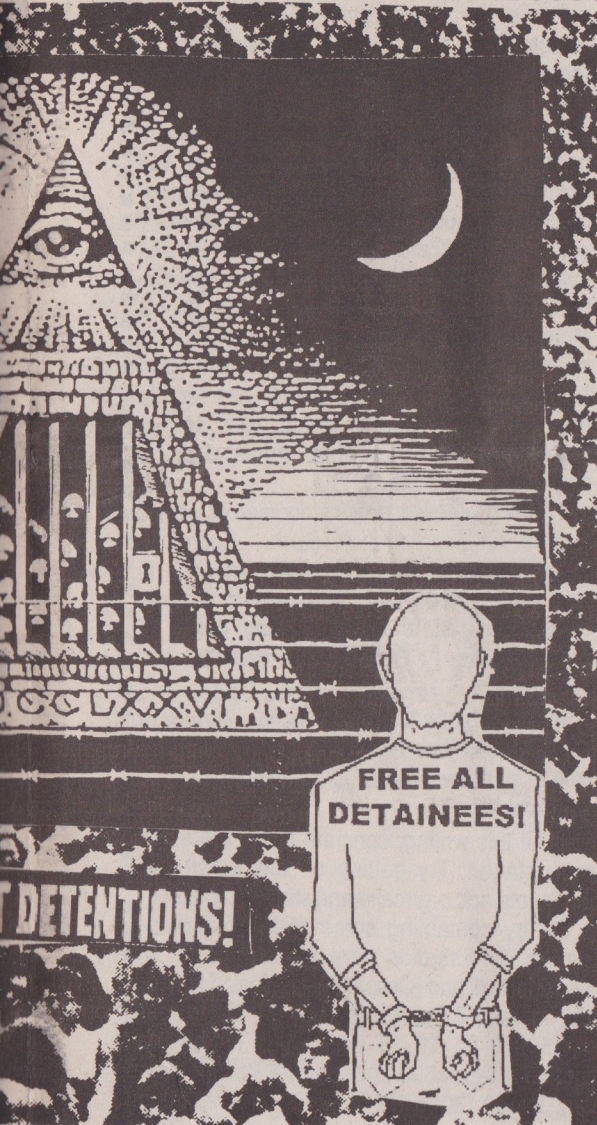
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daughter, and his wife is currently pregnant. If deported he hopes to move back as close to the border as possible to work and help support his family in Houston.



Arrested in post-September 11 sweep "I am convinced that I am here simply because I am Muslim," said Karim Bey Slimani, 27, who was born in Algeria. Slimani has been jailed here since October 2001.

"I am the only one left of those who were locked up here after September 11," he said, reporting that about 40 immigrants from Pakistan and other Middle Eastern countries were brought to this INS jail after that date. Slimani has not been charged with any crime associated with the attack on the Twin Towers. An estimated 1,200 to 2,000 people, mostly immigrants from the Mideast and South Asia, were rounded up over the past year and in many cases held for months without criminal charges. They were often picked up on some minor charge such as not having their immigration papers in order.

Slimani, who had a deportation order dating back to when he first entered the country in 1996, is now being held indefinitely by the INS,

which claims he has not cooperated with the "investigation process" in providing travel documents required to complete the paperwork for his deportation.

Despite the fact that the INS has his Algerian birth certificate, which they seized when they searched his home at the time of the arrest, and despite several phone conferences with Algerian consular officials to verify his identity, the INS deportation officer in charge of his case maintains that Slimani is Palestinian, insisting that he does not speak Arabic with a North African accent and that his passport "appears" fake.

Last September 30, having exhausted all administrative appeals with the INS, his lawyer filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, seeking a court hearing. The petition pointed to a series of violations of his rights.

Under immigration law, a person facing deportation is supposed to be removed within 90 days of receiving a final deportation order, and the period can sometimes be extended to six months.

The day before he was arrested, Slimani received a call from an FBI agent on the cell phone he uses for his job as a cab driver in Houston. The cop asked Slimani for a meeting. At the meeting, the FBI agent asked him if he knew anyone who had celebrated the September 11 attacks, and went on to ask if he was Muslim and how often he went to the mosque, Slimani reported. It was during this interrogation that he told the FBI agent he had a pending deportation case. The next morning the INS arrested him.

The INS then told Slimani that if he had any

information about the September 11 attacks, they could help him "resolve" his situation. "He was assuming that we are all terrorists," Slimani said. "The cop then took me to my apartment, where he began searching everywhere. There he found my birth certificate, and \$30,000 I had been saving at home." A few days later, when his uncle stopped by to check on his apartment, the money was gone.

At one point, the deportation officer threatened that he was going to be deported to another country. They also warned that if he "kept playing games" they would jail him for three to five years, Slimani said.

"I have committed no crimes. I do not use any drugs, I don't drink, I am clean," he said. "Many people who came after me have already left. I just want an opportunity to clear my case, but I cannot do it from here," he added.

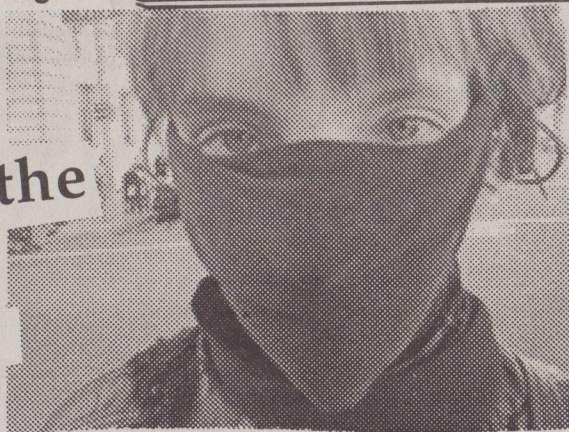
According to the federal government, the vast majority of the more than 1,200 immigrants it swept up after September 11 have been released, deported, or convicted of minor crimes that are not "terrorist-related."

The government reports that only six of the 765 people arrested in the "anti-terror" sweep on immigration charges are still in INS prisons. "I am one of them," Slimani said.



continued from page 1

Disrupt the Nation



after war starts. (Check out the cool flyer reproduced in this issue.)

www.actagainstwar.org 415-820-9649

- Mass rally at 5 p.m. on the day the war starts (next day at 5 p.m. if the war begins at night) at Market and Powell Streets, followed by a march through city neighborhoods. www.internationalanswer.org. 415-821-6545. There will be an anarchist Black Bloc at the 5 pm demo.

- The Morning After the War Starts —Walk Out/Stay Away! Organize Walkouts From School, Work, etc. Spend the morning leafleting for people to join the anti-war movement. In San Francisco converge at noon at Civic Center Plaza to protest the war.

- Saturday after a war starts there will be a mass rally and marches at 7th and Market St at noon.

- East Bay demonstration the day war starts at 5 p.m. in Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland (12th St. BART).

- For information about protests outside the Bay Area, check United for Peace, www.unitedforpeace.org which is nationwide and lists events in large cities and small towns alike.

- The regular March 8th Global Women's Strike may be at a crucial time. Check www.womenforpeace.org.

- Other places to check for actions (of course highly incomplete): www.womenforpeace.org, www.code-pink4peace.org, www.notinourname.net.

Shut Down the WTO

continued from page 1

which could wind across the continent and end up in Cancún. It's likely September 10-14 will see coordinated local actions in hundreds of cities and town across the world to denounce the WTO.

Now is the time to start organizing WTO related events and actions. Form your own ad hoc planning group, or contact some of the

folks already working on this campaign. (See end of article for contact list.)

The ABCs of the WTO

The WTO is just one institution created to promote economic globalization — the merging of the whole world into a single huge market with "free trade" rules designed to increase the power of huge corporations at the expense of workers, local populations and the environment.

The WTO's job is to impose trade sanctions against any signatory country which "maintains barriers to trade." These "barriers" can mean almost anything, including laws that impose labor or environmental standards on industrial production. For instance US laws that prohibit the sale of shrimp caught in nets that endanger sea turtles are considered "barriers to trade" by the WTO.

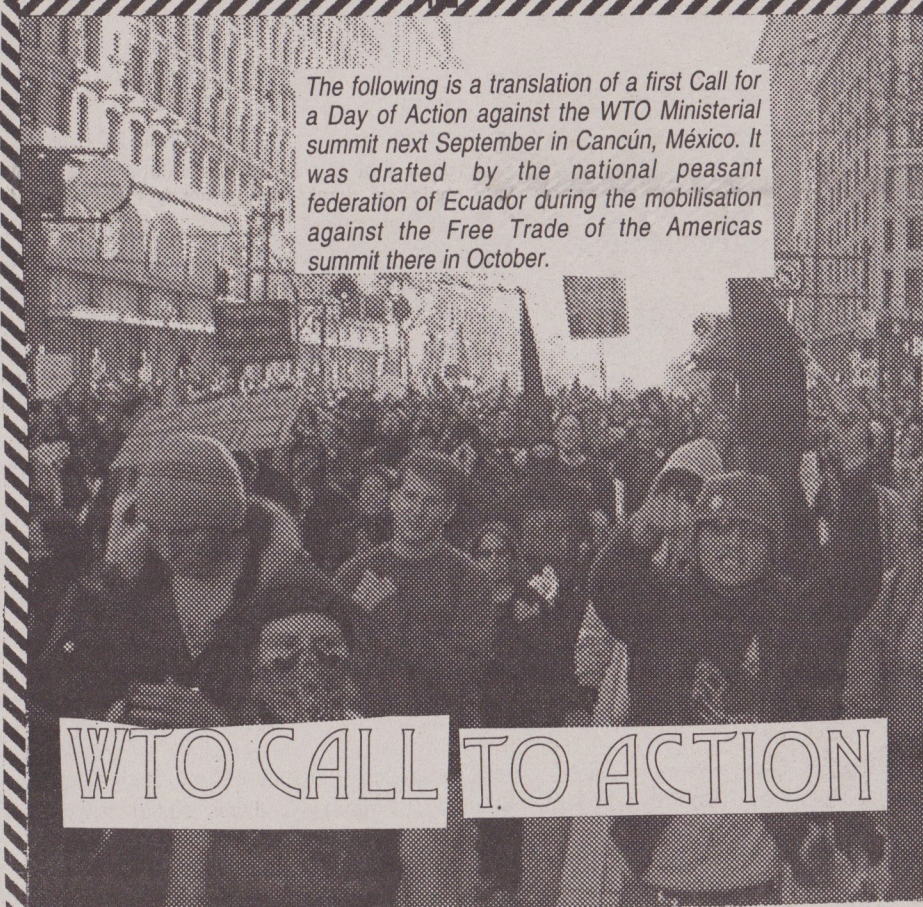
Any country which is a member of the WTO can request that the WTO take action against another member-country which has laws that are allegedly "barriers to trade." WTO trade experts who are drawn from big business and who are not elected by any government meet in secret to decide if the challenged law is a "barrier to trade." The WTO's decisions are not subject to appeal and an "offending"

nation must decide between repealing its law or suffering crippling trade restrictions.

Free trade means freedom for huge corporations to produce and sell products without regard for the welfare of people or the environment. Under free trade, transnational corporations are free to search the world find the cheapest labor available, and then move their factories to that area to exploit the cheap labor. Interestingly enough, while the WTO meets in México, many factories in México along the US/Mexican border are now closing down so the jobs can be moved to China. In a global economy, even the labor of low paid workers in México is considered "too expensive" by transnational corporations.

Labor is cheaper in less developed countries in large part because of the actions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which operate hand-in-hand with the WTO. The IMF/WB keep developing countries in an endless cycle of debt — forcing them to export raw materials and agricultural

The following is a translation of a first Call for a Day of Action against the WTO Ministerial summit next September in Cancún, México. It was drafted by the national peasant federation of Ecuador during the mobilisation against the Free Trade of the Americas summit there in October.



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The Free Trade of the Americas Accords (FTAA) are an integral part of the logic of capitalist globalization promoted by WTO, the World Bank and the IMF and of the militarism

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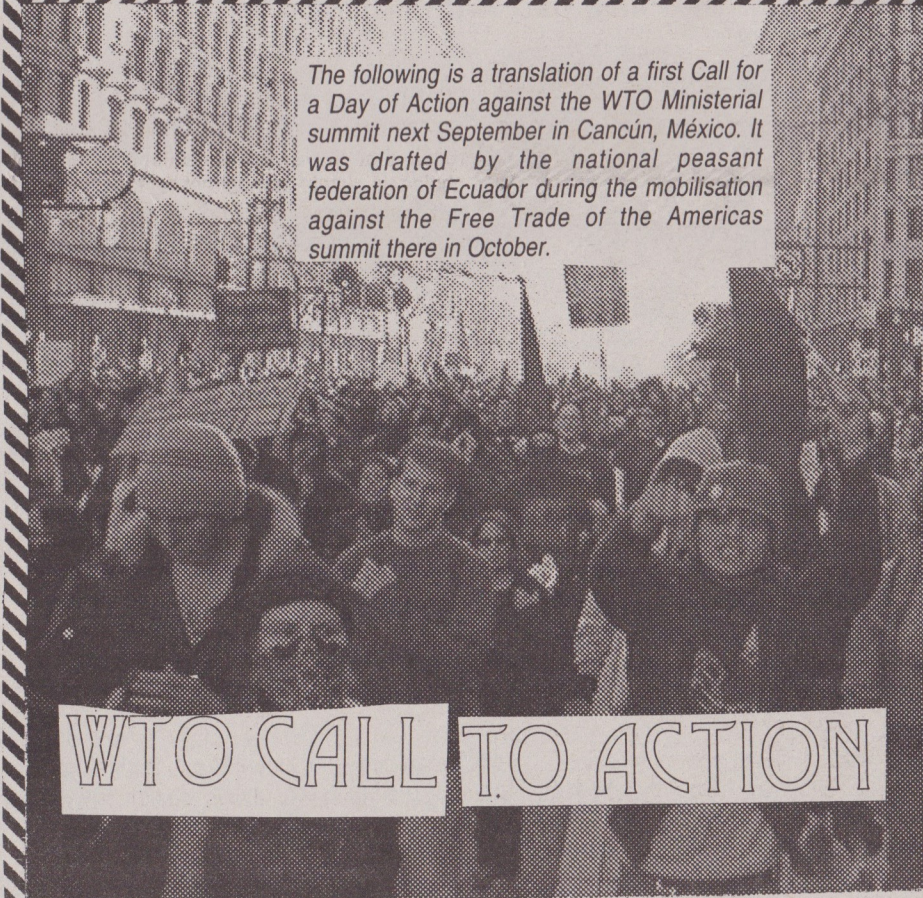
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October was a historic moment for the resistance to global capitalism. The heroic and massive days of struggle which took place on the whole American continent, in resistance to the FTAA inspire us with the necessity to strengthen the process of coordination of continental and global networks of resistance based on local and regional realities.

The experience of the days of struggle, which took place in all of Central America the 12th of October, against the Plan Puebla Panama and the FTAA, demonstrated the

the growing forces of resistance and struggle in Latin America, and unify them in view of a common action, the same day all over the continent.

For this it is necessary to make enormous efforts in our communities and at the grassroots level of our organizations to raise consciousness concerning the FTAA, the WTO, the consequences of the Plan Puebla Panama, of the Andes Initiative — concerning militarization and intervention by the USA against our peoples — and together, at the level of the continent, but each of us in our locality, in our community, to say NO to the genocide and the slavery into which the USA and our neoliberal governments wish to drive us.

Therefore, we call for a coordinated and decentralized action to be taken between the 10th and the 14th of September 2003 (the exact date can be determined later), to coincide with the massive mobilisation which

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nation must decide between repealing its law or suffering crippling trade restrictions.

Free trade means freedom for huge corporations to produce and sell products without regard for the welfare of people or the environment. Under free trade, transnational corporations are free to search the world find the cheapest labor available, and then move their factories to that area to exploit the cheap labor. Interestingly enough, while the WTO meets in México, many factories in México along the US/Mexican border are now closing down so the jobs can be moved to China. In a global economy, even the labor of low paid workers in México is considered "too expensive" by transnational corporations.

Labor is cheaper in less developed countries in large part because of the actions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which operate hand-in-hand with the WTO. The IMF/WB keep developing countries in an endless cycle of debt — forcing them to export raw materials and agricultural products. These activities remove subsistence farmers from their land, creating a large pool of very cheap displaced labor.

The alleged goal of the globalization process is to foster development in the third world and economic growth in the developed nations. However, it is far from clear that either development or economic growth actually benefits the population of the world. Both are certainly essential to maintain profits for transnational corporations.

Market-based capitalism requires that the economy grow every year. Any company that doesn't grow is deserted by its stockholders (who seek short-term returns on their investments), bought up by its competitors, or forced out of business. Constant competition

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The experience of the days of struggle, which took place in all of Central America the 12th of October, against the Plan Puebla Panama and the FTAA, demonstrated the effectiveness of decentralized, but coordinated mobilizations, rooted in the capacities and realities of communities and communities. The massive mobilization in El Salvador against the privatization of health and social security; the strike of peasants and indigenous, from the 16th of September to the 30th of October in Colombia; the mobilizations against privatization in Peru; the marches of the "cocalero" farmers in Bolivia; the actions against FTAA in North America and finally the meeting and days of action at the Quito summit — each of these mobilizations or actions was effective at a local, regional and sometimes international level. If they had all been articulated together — all the sectors, agricultural, indigenous, blacks, trades unions, students, organizations of women, for the environment — concentrating their forces in one common action, the continental impact would have been truly enormous.

So there is a necessity to create a process of articulation and coordinated mobilisation which goes beyond the organization of continental meetings, very costly in terms of human and economic resources, and which most often concretely only organize the next meeting, without succeeding in articulating a continental strategy. This strategy must be the result of a process of coordination and unification of struggles rooted in communities and grassroots organizations which, in the medium term, can prepare the success of a general, continental uprising. We must gather

common action, the same day all over the continent. For this it is necessary to make enormous efforts in our communities and at the grassroots level of our organizations to raise consciousness concerning the FTAA, the WTO, the consequences of the Plan Puebla Panama, of the Andes Initiative — concerning militarization and intervention by the USA against our peoples — and together, at the level of the continent, but each of us in our locality, in our community, to say NO to the genocide and the slavery into which the USA and our neoliberal governments wish to drive us.

Therefore, we call for a coordinated and decentralized action to be taken between the 10th and the 14th of September 2003 (the exact date can be determined later), to coincide with the massive mobilisation which will take place at Cancún, México against the ministerial conference of the WTO. With respect to the continental days of action that we have already organized, this mobilisation should try to take more the form of a single, high profile and highly articulated common action. We are looking for an original concept, a form of disruptive action, something which will strongly underline the basic themes of our struggle, something which can correspond to the realities of each country, community or organization, something which we can realize with only 10 months of preparation, something which if it is done in every country will be heard in all the hemisphere, something which will advance us in the process which we need to construct in order to arrive at a continental strike.

Today, the necessity of a global articulation of struggles is ever more essential strategically, if we are to reply coherently and decisively to global capital.

Until forever,
CONFEUNASSC-CNC, (National federation of peasants of Ecuador and PGA Latin American convenor <ssc-cnc@campesinos-fmlgt.org.ec>) CONAIE, Ecuador ECUARUNARI, Ecuador Movimiento Juventud Kuna, Panama Coordinadoras Regionales de Chiapas de la Sociedad Civil en Resistencia, México. K'inál Antzetik, A.C., Chiapas, México Jolom Mayaetik, Chiapas, México Coalicion de Resistencia Civil de la Selva Norte de Chiapas, México. Parejo S'cotol, Chiapas, México ADUC, Colombia Departamento Derechos Humanos CUT Nacional, Colombia CUT Arauca, Colombia ASOJER, Colombia CRIA, Colombia FEDEJUNTAS, Colombia ASOUWA, Colombia Federación de Trabajadores Fabriles de Cochabamba, Bolivia Coordinadora de Defensa del Agua y la Vida, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Clajadep, Brasil.

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Market-based capitalism requires that the economy grow every year. Any company that doesn't grow is deserted by its stockholders (who seek short-term returns on their investments), bought up by its competitors, or forced out of business. Constant competition enforces the rule: grow or die. This process operates regardless of whether this growth benefits or hurts human beings or the environment. For example, in "developed" countries, the use of oil and cars expands every year — an indicator of economic growth. But does this make life better? More time spent in traffic, more noise, more pollution, more illness. More are people moving from place to place, to be sure, but does this help people live more fulfilling lives? All of this growth has terrible environmental costs which are totally disregarded by the free trade system, corporations and the WTO.

The WTO seeks to force a doomed economic system on everyone on earth. Economic globalization means a dramatic increase in economic inequality and environmental destruction, all to benefit a tiny group of corporations. People everywhere are increasingly resisting free trade and corporate globalization. In the name of freedom, self-determination and the Earth, it's time to shut down the WTO in Cancún!

Get involved

As of this writing, concrete plans are at an early stage. Try getting on this email list: www.laneta.apc.org/mailman/listinfo/aCancún-l.

Or, try contacting some of the following: Centro de Estudios para el Cambio en el Campo Mexicano (Ceccam) Vito Alessio Robles No. 76 casa 7 Col. Florida. Mxico, D.F. 01030 tel: 525 6 61 19 25 and 525 6 61 53 98. Public Citizen 1600 20th St. NW Washington, DC. 20009 (202) 588-1000, www.citizen.org.

Total Information Asshole

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Information Awareness Office. In other words, the Sun, and it's Phoenician God, IAO, represents Reason. The light of Reason. The God of the Enlightenment, of the Deists, of the Founding Fathers, of Freemasonry. This light is symbolized by the Sun, and has been for thousands of years.

When I've mentioned this to people, some think that the "IAO" in Information Awareness Office must be completely coincidental. They didn't choose it because it's the name of the Phoenician Sun-God. But if we know that all of

lost civilization. That would be too easy. I would like, however, to put forward a hypothesis, from an anarchist perspective, on how to understand the often misunderstood connections between our government and Freemasonry. I do this because many well-meaning people, anarchists included, get fooled into a dangerous inaction by the many conspiracy theories out there.

According to one Freemason, "freedom of religion, of conscience, and of thought are Freemasonry's highest goal." Sounds lovely. And I believe them, except that those are also

ultimately founded upon is the mistaken belief that they are uniquely right and good, that they are the true beneficiaries of the light and energy of the Sun, that they are "enlightened." Another way of thinking about it is that the Sun represents a dominating attachment to Mind or Reason as the highest form of knowledge. But, as the Sun is not the only source of light, the Mind is not the only source of knowledge.

Cultural theorists (and Holocaust survivors) Horkheimer and Adorno (The Dialect of Enlightenment) have already shown how the so-called "Enlightenment" inexorably led toward such civilized phenomena as the Holocaust and Hiroshima. And let's please recall that the swastika, Hitler's symbol of choice, is simply an abstract representation of the sun, used by sun worshippers for thousands of years. Why not throw in the Christian cross while we're at it? And what do you know, it's on our dollar bill in the form of the all-seeing-eye emitting rays of light.

The question of when and how sun-worship, i.e., mind-worship, arose is interesting and highly controversial. Many think that mind-sun-worship is equal to the rise of the rise of Western Civilization, beginning with the birth of systematic agriculture in the ancient Near East. Others might posit that it has always been an aspect of human existence. Where we come down on this issue has important consequences in terms of our thinking about the best way to create the change we want to see in the world. In either case, however, it is obvious that the State as it exists, and the TIA exemplifies this perfectly, is addicted to the Mind/Sun framework, and this realization helps us understand our relationship to the State.

It is important to attempt to understand what the deepest roots of something like the Total Information Awareness program are. Poindexter, Bush, the DoD, all of them, really think they're protecting freedom and

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pushed by an administration, since FDR (a high-ranking Freemason) put the all-seeing-eye on the dollar bill. In some way it's a good thing: it reminds people that the State wants Power, and will get it however it can. It also has made people think about the bizarre symbols of the U.S. government. When one looks at them for a moment, they loudly proclaim the genocidal nature of our supposed "progress." And here in the TIA logo we have another abstract representation of the Sun — when will people realize that our government runs by the same fundamental ideology as the Third Reich, and every other imperial government before that one?

We can say that the TIA is wrong, but we cannot say that what we're doing, whatever it may be, is absolutely right. It is not about light and dark, good and bad. That's falling into the sun-worshipping trap.

All of us, anarchists included, can be sun-worshippers: that is, think we know The Truth, think we are enlightened, for that is essentially what sun-worship is all about, and it is a lie. We can appreciate the sun as a source of light and energy, but know that it is just a part of a much larger whole. It is this fundamental arrogance that builds empires, commits holocausts, enslaves whole peoples, and creates TIA systems.

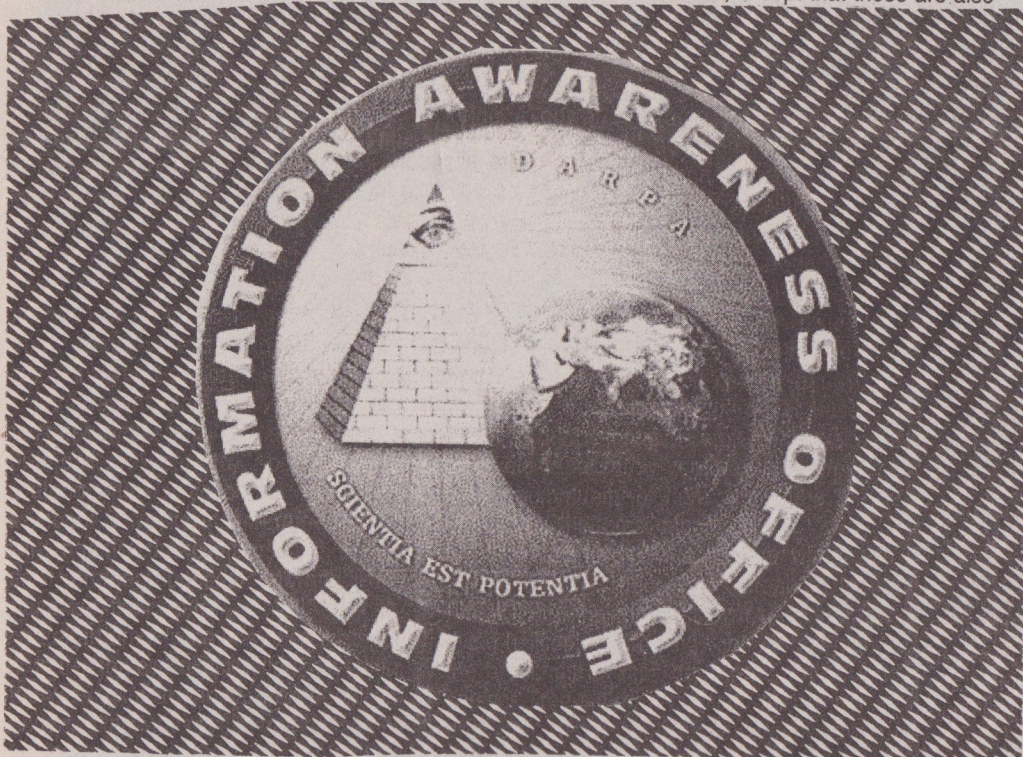
Out in the Streets!

Continued from page 1

war resolution. Such a veto would be almost unprecedented.

This is to say nothing of the regular *people* in the rest of the world — people around the world now understand that the US is the greatest threat to world peace. Even if ultimately Bush has the *power* to make war, he'll be doing it *against* the opinion of the rest of the world — regular people, ruling class elites and governments alike.

All of which indicates that — far from domestic attempts at protesting a war before it starts being futile and doomed — they are absolutely *crucial*. When the rest of the world



the symbols in the logo are blatantly of freemasonic origin, and the important texts of freemasonry all mention IAO as another name for this Sun-God that symbolizes "Reason," then it seems highly unlikely that these three letters were chosen by coincidence. (See

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It is important to attempt to understand what the deepest roots of something like the Total Information Awareness program are. Poindexter, Bush, the DoD, all of them, really think they're protecting freedom and progress by pursuing a mega-database that can be used to watch and screw with anyone they choose. That's because they think they're the only ones who know what freedom and progress are. Because they think they're "enlightened." And yes, in a limited sense, they are protecting freedom and progress: their own. And that is sad, because we can clearly see how that limited sense of "freedom" continues to cause great suffering, and, most paradoxically, constraint.

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All of which indicates that — far from domestic attempts at protesting a war before it starts being futile and doomed — they are absolutely *crucial*. When the rest of the world looks at the US and sees it vocally split down the middle over the prospect of war, they can see Bush for the wannabe emperor he is — one with no clothes, and a small, shriveled dick. Cheney running the show. Bush can talk like a Texas cowboy, but everyone knows he's a cokehead fratboy born with a silver spoon in his mouth who ducked out of military service in Vietnam.

There are opportunities to protest the war all around us all the time — some organized by others, and some you can do yourself. The key is to do something at every opportunity before the war can begin.



the symbols in the logo are blatantly of freemasonic origin, and the important texts of freemasonry all mention IAO as another name for this Sun-God that symbolizes "Reason," then it seems highly unlikely that these three letters were chosen by coincidence. (See Aleister Crowley, *Magick and Theory in Practice*, Chapter 5, "The Formula of I.A.O.") In my opinion, the chances of the government choosing IAO by accident are zero. What's more disconcerting is that according to the *New York Times* article, Poindexter is actually aware of the occult symbolism that the logo references. It seems he sees the TIA program as a step toward the creation of the "New Order of the Ages" (*Novus Ordo Seclorum*) we see on our one-dollar bills, and that Freemasons value so highly.

Now, I'd like to emphasize that I don't think this is about aliens or satanic forces or some

the stated goals of the United States of America. We all know, however, that in attempting to achieve those goals, the United States can't seem to avoid slavery and genocide in various forms. How does "freedom of religion" lead to genocide of Native Americans and enslavement of Africans? Is the U.S. government actually run by a bunch of Satan-worshipping wackos having orgies in the Bohemian Grove? No — I truly believe that deep deep (very deep) down, they mean well.

Let's look at the logo again -- the dominant symbol is the light of the sun, and IAO is the name for the Phoenician Sun-god. The Sun, by most people, is seen as a positive symbol of the source of light and knowledge. And yes, the Sun is a source of light. But it is not the only one, and that is a fundamental error. What the Freemasons, all of their predecessors, and the imperialist drive for endless expansion are

Hey Kids — This is a tri-fold flyer (front and back) that you can cut-out, copy, fold and hand out. Or make your own. See you at Main & Market at 7 a.m.!

OUR GOALS

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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with no clothes, and a small, shriveled dick Cheney running the show. Bush can talk like a Texas cowboy, but everyone knows he's a cokehead fratboy born with a silver spoon in his mouth who ducked out of military service in Vietnam.

There are opportunities to protest the war all around us all the time — some organized by others, and some you can do yourself. The key is to do something at every opportunity before the war can begin.

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OUR GOALS

- 1) If the government and corporations won't stop the war, we'll shut down the warmakers! *We will impose real economic, social and political costs and stop business as usual until the war stops.*
- 2) Assert our power to transform our city from profits, oil and war to resistance and life! We will create an open, welcoming, inspiring space that *gives voice to the anti-war majority as an assertion of real democracy.*
- 3) Uproot the system behind the war (and behind the war at home—racism, poverty...); help catalyze mass movements to challenge corporate and government power and *create socially just, directly democratic, ecological, peaceful alternatives.*

Direct Action to Stop the War

www.yahoo.com/group/no-war-in-iraq

(415) 820-9649

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If the war starts, don't go to work or school and head downtown. Call in sick, walk out, don't go—and get your co-workers/ schoolmates to join you.

Form an affinity or action group to get prepared. Get a group of five to 25 of your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or schoolmates to prepare for and participate in the emergency morning-after action. Make a plan of how you will get together, get downtown and what you will do if war starts. Send one or two people from your group to the weekly action "spokescouncil" to coordinate with other groups. Participate in a nonviolent direct action training to get prepared. Several affinity groups can join together as a "cluster."

Bring friends, music, art, performance, and food to share to help transform our city. Help sustain the transformation/occupation as long as possible—we will keep it going.

ACTION MENU

We are asking affinity (action) groups choose from the menu and take over and transform the following key intersections and corporate and government offices/buildings. Or join the "Take Out" mobile Bikes not Bombs actions. Or plan your own action and menu item. Attend the weekly spokescouncil meeting to coordinate and help organize. The business day the morning after war starts you may wish to just go directly to a "menu" location or else to Main and Market where people will go out to support the actions.

There are many ways to reclaim, transform, occupy or blockade spaces. Sit-ins, street parties, lockdown, objects, performance, street murals, gardening, large sculpture, die-ins... **PLAN AHEAD.** Invite everyone you know. We will have fliers and encourage everyone to make an effort to talk to, diffuse or get support from those who get stuck on their way to work, school or other business.

Waiter!! There's a War in My Soup!

EMERGENCY "POTLUCK" TO STOP THE WAR!

—MASS NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION—

7:00 AM

MORNING OF THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY AFTER WAR BEGINS

Meet at: Market and Main, Embarcadero BART, SF

TRANSFORM OUR CITY

**From Profit And War To Life And Resistance
Shut Down The Corporate Warmakers!**

- **Don't go to work or school**
- **Form an affinity (action) group**
- **HEAD DOWNTOWN: Bring friends, music, art, performance, and food to share**
- **Join/create an ongoing transformation/occupation**

Get That Fed Outta My Library

Continued from page 3

and Hawaii have laws making library records confidential.

In fact many of these state privacy laws are themselves a reaction to another misguided program, the FBI's so-called Library Awareness Program in effect during the 1980's. During this period, agents went to libraries and asked for information on patrons it considered "suspicious." Backlash by librarians and resultant heightened visibility of the program itself brought an early demise to the FBI's activities and more codified assertions of public library patron privacy.

The American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom has offered legal assistance to libraries who are facing, or have faced, federal investigators in their libraries [as long as the librarians don't tell the OIF they have been served with a search warrant]. The USAPA has created a series of conflicting laws where state laws contradict the USAPA which itself contradicts the Bill of Rights. What's a librarian to do?

While this is all chilling information, the next question is: are these dreaded visits actually happening? While no accurate count of federal agents' visits to libraries can be made due to the [insane and illegal] gag order, a recent survey of 906 libraries done by the Library Research Center at the UIUC [see link below] found that nearly half the libraries surveyed reported a visit by state or local law enforcement or the INS, in the year following 9/11/01, as compared to less than 15% reporting similar visits in the previous year.

Libraries who have been visited by the FBI can't mention that fact AFTER the visit, but many libraries and library systems are becoming pro-active and getting ready in case the feds do come to the door. To this end they have begun making staff and patrons aware of the Act and its implications. Some of them

Cambridge, Amherst, Leverett & Northampton MA, Takoma Park MD Alachua County FL and Santa Fe, NM have passed some form of resolution condemning the USAPA. Almost all of these resolutions were the result of grass roots and/or library agitation by the general public fed up with infringements on their rights. If your town or city isn't on this list, perhaps you could help it get there.

Other organizations have been fighting back as well. In August 2002, the ACLU, the Freedom to Read Foundation, The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the Electronic Privacy Information Center filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get the Justice Department to disclose how it has been using the USAPA since its inception. They had gotten no response by October, so they filed a lawsuit with the US District Court for the District of Columbia demanding a response. In November, a judge ordered the government to respond to the request by January 15th of this year. In January, the government's response was widely reported in the media:

"On that date, the government supplied 200 pages, most heavily redacted or blacked out so nothing can be read. None of the documents contained any of the information that had been requested. In the letter accompanying the released pages, the Justice Department made it clear that it would not supply any further information based upon the August FOIA request without further litigation."

Clearly the US government isn't too happy about sharing information about its program to force other agencies to share information.

The next big question is what can we all do to prevent, thwart, ridicule and generally combat intrusive government surveillance and intimidation in our lives? There are many levels



knock on the door. Here is a short list of things you can do that will help expose the USA PATRIOT Act as the total unconstitutional violation of our civil liberties that it really is:

1. Inform yourself, follow these links below and learn what the USAPA is and what it is not. Make a point of telling people about it every day. Be aware of the many public places you go where you could be being spied on just for crossing the path of a "suspected terrorist."

2. Go to your library and talk to your librarians and library staff about the PATRIOT Act. Ask if they have a plan in case the FBI comes to their library. Ask them what privacy policies they have put in place. Remind them that it's okay to tell people if the FBI "hasn't" been in the library. Check out every

repercussions. Tell them you are unhappy that they have sold out your freedoms for the sake of appearing "tough on crime."

5. Resist, in whatever form you think is appropriate, government's attempts to silence or oversee you.

Further reading

- Text of the USAPA <http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/hr3162.html>
- Bill of Rights Defense Committee <http://www.bordc.org/index.html>
- Privacy, Computers and the PATRIOT Act: The Fourth Amendment Isn't Dead, But No One Will Insure It by Steven A Osher <http://www.flr.law.ufl.edu/pdf/july2002/osher.pdf>
- EFF Analysis of the The Provisions Of The USA PATRIOT Act That Relate To Online Activities http://www.eff.org/Privacy/-Surveillance/Terrorism_militias/

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At this writing, San Francisco, Oakland, Arcata, West Hollywood, Yolo County, Santa Cruz, Berkeley, Fairfax and Sebastopol California as well as Boulder CO, Madison WI, Ann Arbor and Detroit MI, Burlington and Montpelier VT, Eugene OR, Fairbanks AK, Mansfield and New Haven CT, Flagstaff AZ,

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3. If your community hasn't yet passed a resolution against the PATRIOT Act, see if you can get one passed. Check out the sample resolutions online, or craft your own. Have community meetings and talk with people about their rights, and their privacy, and what should or shouldn't be allowed in a free society. Get people's honest opinions on the new legislation and its effectiveness in fighting terrorism.

4. Write letters to elected officials. They passed it, they should deal with the

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- EFF Analysis of the The Provisions Of The USA PATRIOT Act That Relate To Online Activities http://www.eff.org/Privacy-Surveillance/Terrorism_militias/20011031_eff_usa_patriot_analysis.html
- American Library Association USAPA Resource Page <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/usapatriotact.html>
- Surveillance Powers, Changes after USAPA, from ACLU http://archive.aclu.org/issues/privacy/Patriot_Chart_law.html
- State Privacy Laws Regarding Library Records <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif-stateprivacylaws.html>
- Public Libraries <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/research/finalresults.pdf>
- The State of Civil Liberties in the US One Year After 9/11 <http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/excep/ccr.html>

A MOVEABLE FEAST Intersections and Arteries

Primi Piatti (1st Course):

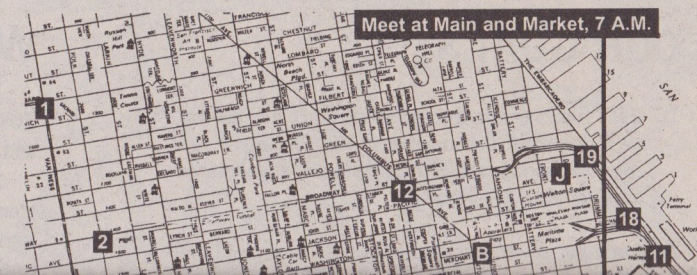
- 1) Lombard & Van Ness
- 2) Polk & Broadway
- 3) Polk & Bush
- 4) Market & Franklin
- 5) Division & Van Ness

TRADITIONAL SIT-DOWN DINNER Government and Corporate

Financial

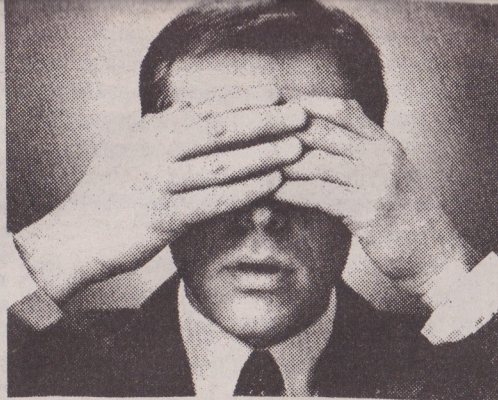
- A) City Corpse/UK Consulate—Sansome & Market
- B) Carlyle Group/TransAmerica Pyramid—600 Montgomery
- C) Pacific Stock Exchange (2nd floor)—220 Bush (near Kearny)

Big Oil



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- <http://usapatriotact.html>
- Surveillance Powers, Changes after USAPA, from ACLU http://archive.aclu.org/issues/privacy/Patriot_Chart_law.html
- State Privacy Laws Regarding Library Records <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/stateprivacylaws.html>
- Public Libraries <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/research/finalresults.pdf>
- The State of Civil Liberties in the US One Year After 9/11 <http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/excep/ccr.html>

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- 1) Lombard & Van Ness
- 2) Polk & Broadway
- 3) Polk & Bush
- 4) Market & Franklin
- 5) Division & Van Ness
- 6) 6th & Brannan
- 7) 5th & Mission (SF Chronicle)
- 8) 3rd & Folsom
- 9) Harrison & 2nd
- 10) Harrison & Fremont
- 11) Embarcadero & Market
- 12) Broadway @ Columbus



Secondi Piatti (2nd Course):

- 13^a & 13^b Stockton Tunnel
- 14) Powell & Bush
- 15) Market & 6th
- 16) 16th & Valencia/Mission
- 17) Howard & Fremont
- 18) Embarcadero & Washington
- 19) Embarcadero & Broadway
- 20) Parking Lot of Your Choice
 - a. Civic Center (McAllister betw. Polk/Larkin)
 - b. Sutter/Stockton (entries on Bush and Stockton)
 - c. 5th/Mission (entries on Mission and on Minna)



TRADITIONAL SIT-DOWN DINNER Government and Corporate

Financial

- A) City Corpse/UK Consulate—Sansome & Market
- B) Carlyle Group/TransAmerica Pyramid—600 Montgomery
- C) Pacific Stock Exchange (2nd floor)—220 Bush (near Kearny)

Big Oil

- D) Shell Office—100 Bush @ Sansome

Media

- E) CBS Westinghouse Electric—221 Main St. Near Howard
- F) NBC (GE)—1 Front St. @ Pine

Federal

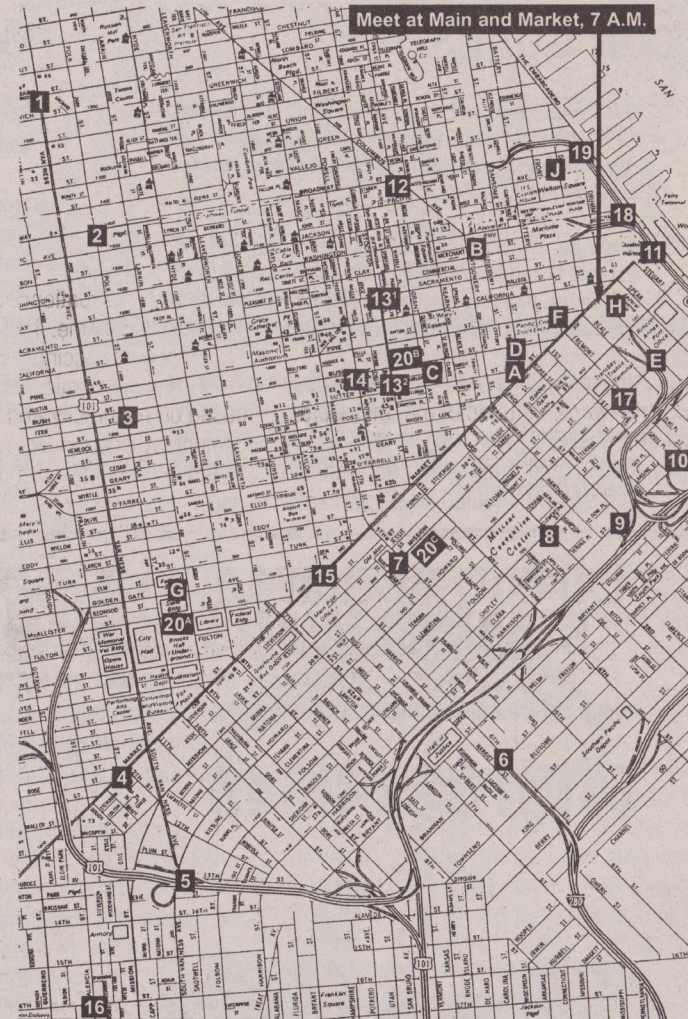
- G) Federal Building—Golden Gate & Polk
- H) Federal Reserve—101 Market
- J) Military Recruitment Center—670 Davis

NO TIME TO DINE? TRY OUR TAKE OUT!

BIKES NOT BOMBS

Bicycling: A QUIET STATEMENT AGAINST OIL WARS.

Join the mobile Bikes not Bombs. Bring your bike (or rollerblades, or skateboard or any human-powered wheels) with signs, flags, and decorations to Main and Market at 7am (or whenever you can make it) and support all the stationary action, fill the streets with bicycles, get the word out.... Your affinity group can be its own moving anti-war bike ride.





Quito: A personal account

Continued from page 3

agreement that would impoverish Latin Americans, not to mention many U.S. citizens. Zoellick stared fixedly at his shoe. It was a scene that is, I think, pretty much unprecedented in the history of trade negotiations.

Soon the civil society presentations began. A line of people fanned out in front of the ministers (and TV cameras) holding signs that said "Sí a la vida, No al ALCA" (Yes to life, No to the FTAA). Behind the podium stood an indigenous representative holding a beautifully painted Inca sun with North America and South America, and the words "Si Una Integración Solidaria Con Respeto a la Soberanía de los

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And, at that moment, I felt something shift.



Infoshop Update

Compiled by PB

Here's some Infoshops that just opened or that we've found out about, plus some corrections to the list of radical contacts published in the 2003 Slingshot Organizer.

Cascadia Rising infoshop in Portland

"We just opened an infoshop/activist resource center located in the Cascadia Forest Alliance office in South East, Portland Oregon. We have on hand hundreds of do-it-yourself zines, scores of anarchist/radical/leftist publications from all over the US (and we're hoping soon, the world) not to mention a lending library full of great books. Anyone is welcome to drop in (except cops) and browse, hang out, read, drink tea....all that fun shit!" Open 11:00 am-10:00 p.m.; all week!! 1540 S.E. Clinton, Portland, OR 97202 (503) 241-4879

Community Arts & Media Project buys a building in St. Louis, Missouri

These folks have managed to purchase a 100 year old, 9,000 square foot building to provide space for seven groups: the St. Louis

Check out the Misfit Theater Zine Library in New Zealand

An all volunteer run, non-profit book, music, zine and second-hand store. They also have a mail distro and a zine library. Visit them at 335 Grant North Rd, Auckland. Open Thur/Fri. 1-7, Sat/Sun noon -4. Mail them at PO Box 68939, Newton, Auckland, New Zealand.

Ironweed Infoshop in Albany, NY

The Ironweed Collective sent us a cool flyer with all the stuff happening in Albany: Critical Mass bike ride, Food Not Bombs, Revolution 101 study group and their Infoshop. Check it out at 98 Grand St., Albany, NY 12202 518-436-0929.

Madhatter's IMC / Infoshop

They have an Independent Media Center with an Infoshop. These folks also publish the City Free Press, Connecticut's only cooperatively run monthly. Check them out at 218 White St., Danbury, CT 06810 203-730-9397.

Wooden Spoon in Ann Arbor

The Wooden Spoon just transformed itself into a cooperative bookstore and community space. They're at 200 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-769-4775.

Breakdown Book Collective & Community Space reopens in Denver

After a brief closure and relocation, Breakdown Collective is back. They have radical books, a lending library, video library, free computer use, space for various organizations to meet, and a variety of information about upcoming community events. The community resource center provides a source for ideas, information, and literature marginalized or ignored by mainstream outlets, to educate, empower, and strengthen the Denver area community. Breakdown hosts and



Quito: A personal account

Continued from page 3

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Finally, the social movement representatives spoke. Leonidas Iza, the President of the CONAIE (the Ecuadorian indigenous federation), stated the social movements' clear rejection of the FTAA and of neoliberalism in general. "We are in desperate shape," he told the ministers. "You couldn't possibly understand, you who were born in golden cradles and have never suffered" (at this the ministers looked even more uncomfortable). "But we don't have food to feed our children. Our markets are flooded with cheap imports. Imported milk is dumped in Ecuador for half of what it costs to produce it, but transnationals [mostly Nestle] sell it back to us at \$1.80 per litre. We have no way to live, and the FTAA will only make it worse. When we complain, the U.S. government calls us terrorists. We are not threatening anything, but we are hungry and tired and things have to change." In the wake of widening protest throughout Latin America, the message was not lost on anyone.

Then a woman worker from Nicaragua spoke powerfully of the details of the FTAA, of the privatization and poverty and social exclusion it would bring, particularly for women. "Don't

then in Spanish that never again could Bob Zoellick claim that the people of Latin America were clamoring for free trade, because today they had unequivocally rejected it. Then Peter Rossett chimed in that polls consistently showed that the majority of U.S. citizens oppose free trade, and that the Bush administration had no right and no mandate to push forward with the FTAA. There were loud cheers, and the moderator hurriedly announced that the ministers were leaving and could we please sit down so they could leave. "NO!" screamed the civil society folks in unison, and they pushed out the door, leaving the ministers sitting on stage.

And, at that moment, I felt something shift. I realized that (unless the media bury this entirely despite our best efforts to get the word out, which is always possible) the FTAA has in 24 hours gone from something whose praises its proponents sing, to something they have to defend. Like the WTO before it, the FTAA has become the treaty that has to be sold to an America that doesn't want it. Or so I hope. I hope I hope I hope. This is how it feels here. But it may be different elsewhere.

We marched out of the Suissotel, reached the police barricades and were greeted by hundreds of cheering protesters, who had been dancing to traditional Kichwa music while we were inside. Then the partying began, I just said good-bye to a compañera from one of the rural provinces of the Sierra, I asked her what she thought of the day's events, and she said, "I am happy. Very happy. This was the first time I have ever done this, and I think today we achieved something important, something that will improve our lives. And now I can go back to my children."

I am so proud, so proud and amazed by the incredible work people have done here over the last few months, so moved by their commitment to this struggle, so humbled by the generosity, patience, tolerance, and trust they have shown me. I am so honored to be part of this fast-coalescing hemispheric movement

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Corrections to the 2003 Organizer

- We got word of the existence of ICT Infoshop, 1515 N. Sedgwick St., Wichita, KS 67203. We don't know what ICT stands for or anything else about them, though.
- The listing for Toronto Women's books in the Canada section has the wrong phone number — the correct phone number is 416.922.8744.
- If you're in Sweden, check out Bokhandeln Info, Tjörhovsgatan 44, 11628 Stockholm, Sweden. They sent us a nice card. Their website looks very informative, if you know Swedish. If not, its rather confusing.
- The listing for Boxcar Books in Fort Collins, Colorado is incorrect — there's nothing at that address anymore.
- The Stone soup collective in Florida doesn't exist anymore.
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Then a woman worker from Nicaragua spoke powerfully of the details of the FTAA, of the privatization and poverty and social exclusion it would bring, particularly for women. "Don't think you can simply take your picture with us and push forward," she told the ministers. "We will stop the FTAA."

The meeting ended and, unable to contain myself, I stood up and shouted in English and

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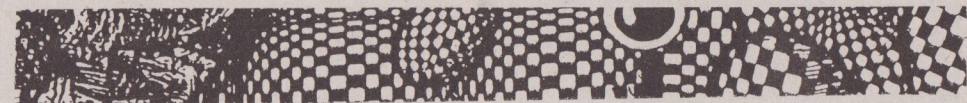
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- The Center for Creative Autonomy in Houston, Texas has closed.

Long Haul Infoshop celebrates 10 years

The Long Haul Infoshop in Berkeley — also home of Slingshot's offices — celebrates 10 years of being open at the same location this year in August. If you came to the Infoshop in 1993 or 1995 or 1997 and haven't been back since because you think you have it pegged as representing this or that, you might want to come by again — a lot of stuff changes over 10 years.

Long Haul recently upgraded its audio/visual capability by installing a fancy sound system and a video projector. Most Friday and Saturday nights, there's a concert,

party or movie showing. If you want to book a show or screen a film, call the new booking hotline at 510 540-0751 ex. 4. We're especially looking for independent video producers who want to screen their work. Long Haul is publishing a quarterly calendar with upcoming events. Or, you can check on the schedule of events by visiting our brand new website at www.thelonghaul.org.

Another change is that after 10 years of Monday being reserved for women only, Monday is now open to all genders. Monday can still be reserved for women only events and folks

scheduling all-gender events on Monday are asked to do so no more than three weeks in advance to give women only events scheduling preference. The change was made reluctantly after the staff of women's night noticed that interest in a women's only space had evaporated.

Drop by Long Haul Monday - Thursday from 6-9, or Sunday from 3-9. Or, if you want to get involved in running the place, the next meetings are March 2 and April 6 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Trumbullplex 10 year anniversary

Trumbullplex radical center/Infoshop/etc. in Detroit, Michigan is ten years old believe it or not, and us folks living here now are going to have a party. We are hoping to gather up as many former members as we can to share a weekend together. We have already considered mud wrestling, creating a scrap book, story telling, events for the kids, music and mayhem etc. If you're interested, have ideas or are looking for a reason to come to Detroit contact us right away so we can plan a date.

Trumbullplex

4210 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48208
(313)832-1845 • trumbullplex@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday

Still Slingshotting after 15 years

By PB Floyd

This issue marks *Slingshot's* 15th birthday. Lots of radical zines start up, but not so many of them keep going for 15 years. Fifteen years is a long time — for me, its almost half of my life. So, perhaps you'll indulge me in a few reflections about what it all means.

Slingshot published its first edition on March 9, 1988. I didn't work on that issue, but I read it within a day or two and I met some of the people who were publishing it while riding on BART over to San Francisco for a protest. The first issue was just one sheet of 11 X 17 white copier paper, folded in half. It was raw and militant, with handwritten headlines and hilarious seditious graphics. *Slingshot* looked like it was put together in the backseat of a getaway car after some really cool revolutionary act. I immediately loved it and got involved a couple of weeks later.

Before *Slingshot*, I was a left-liberal from a smallish town who had been a peace and justice activist since I was 16. I had worked on a number of political publications before — I was also editor of my high school paper.

Slingshot marked the conclusion of my radicalization — my move away from a belief that this country's institutions could be reformed to an understanding that they had to be overthrown and replaced with something different. When *Slingshot* came along, I had started seriously studying marxist economic theory, and new political worlds were opening for me everywhere. *Slingshot* provided a way to turn this changing consciousness into a

Plaza at the university in Berkeley and fold the 1,000 copies by hand. As soon as they were folded, people would eagerly come along to take them and read them. Usually, all 1,000 copies were gone by 5 p.m.

★ ★ ★

We were able to do it like that because there was such a wonderful and active *movement* on campus in those days. We published weekly because every week, there were protests, building occupations, arrests, riots, squatted houses, trials — *stuff was going on*. At 19 years old, there were moments when I really believed that the private property system was on the verge of crumbling — that the youthful crowds in the streets would just get larger and larger and we would build a whole new way of living.

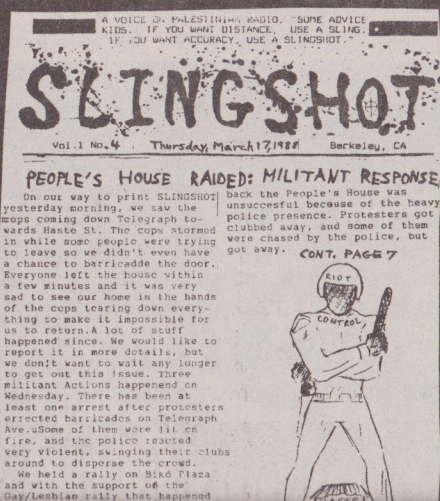
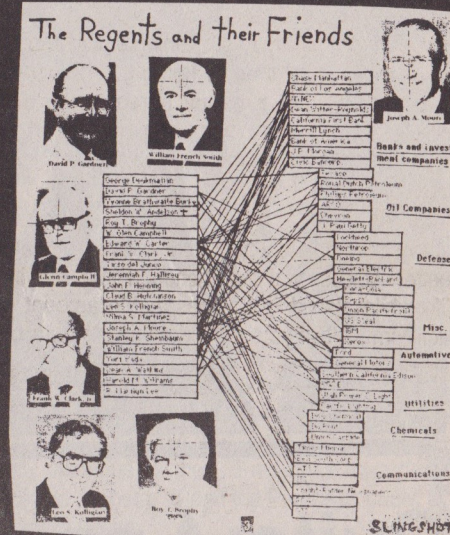
adulthood. Or a different and less agist and personal way to put it is how radicals can build structures that benefit from longevity without suffering from the tendency to become moderate, boring — gradually less than radical over time. I'm still far from sure that I understand the answer to these questions, but I still think they're good questions.

Personally, I think I'm still working on *Slingshot* out of pure stubbornness. I don't think its necessarily a good idea for anyone to be this stubborn or work on one project for this long, but everyone has personality faults they wish they could change. This is mine.

For me working on *Slingshot* is a personal psychological necessity — I need to feel like I'm trying to do *something* about the horrendous state of the world — about things I wish were different. To be honest, sometimes, even for years at a time, it doesn't feel like working on *Slingshot* does any good at all. My key to maintaining my activism over all these years is to simply ignore that feeling when it surfaces. There are other times when it seems like it might possibly make a little difference — that people and society are capable of change, and that distributing visions and inspiration for change can help. The process of writing a newspaper and then distributing it all over the place — the idea that it may be read by other people you will never meet — this feels like a way to go beyond just hoping the world will change.

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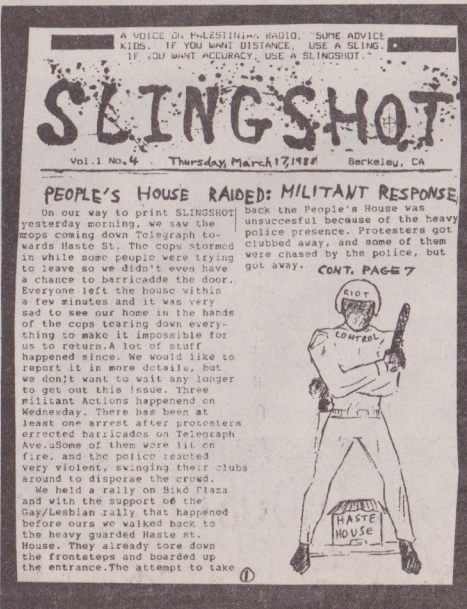
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During the first few months, *Slingshot* published weekly zines, all photocopied on white paper. Publishing weekly was an amazing rush that I wish I could still experience. We would get together in the afternoon, figure out who should write what, write it, and be done with layout that same night. The next morning at 7 a.m., the paper would go to the copy shop when it opened, and be printed by noon. At noon, we would sit around Sproul

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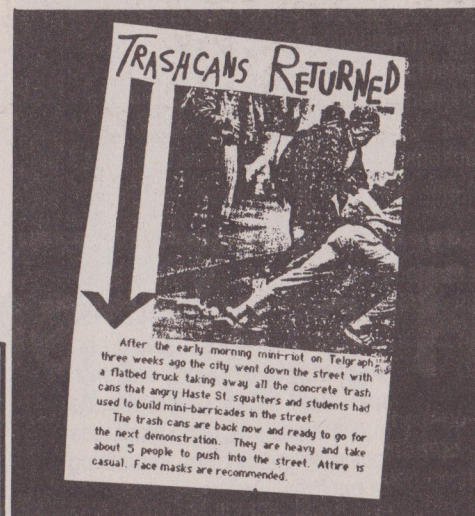
We were able to do it because we were young and relatively privileged. I was a student — most people who worked on *Slingshot* weren't students but gravitated to the action, freedom and excitement of the university scene. I worked maybe 15 hours a week in those days, and many people worked less, or didn't work at all.

For me, a crucial aspect of the *Slingshot* story is how people — both personally and politically — can continue radical ideas and action beyond youth, and sustain them into

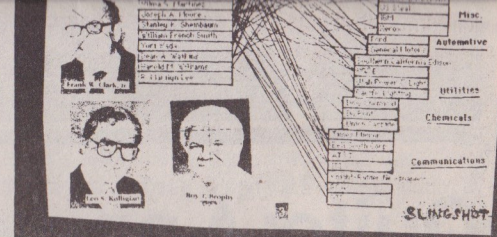
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Slingshot completely severed its ties with the university scene in the early 1990s. For a while after everyone had graduated, we kept our office and mailing address on campus and used the university mailing permit, but eventually the whole process of finding "front students" to sign everything got to be more trouble than it was worth. The university,



reacting to the campus anti-apartheid movement in the mid-80s, kept making new rules to prevent students and off-campus radicals from cooperating. The university finally banned people without student IDs from coming into many campus buildings. This tactic worked, since then there hasn't been much



We decided to publish quarterly, doing most work on the evenings and on weekends. There would be a deadline for articles and then everyone in the collective would read the articles — a process we call collective editing. Then, on the Friday night before doing page layout, we would have an "all night meeting" during which we would decide what articles to print and which ones to cut, and which pages to put articles on. Then people in the collective would volunteer to layout one or more pages. All this would get written on chalk boards. The all night meeting is a long meeting fueled by bags of chocolate chips with tons of political debate and struggle, sometimes bitter arguments, often howls of laughter and eventually total exhaustion and frustration. After staying up way too late Friday night, we would get up on Saturday and proceed to spend every waking moment of the weekend putting the whole paper together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. On Monday, mentally and physically spent, we would take the paper to the printer.

Most of the traditions developed at that time persist to this day.

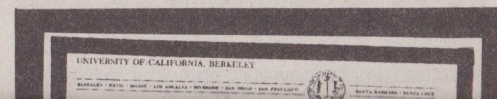
One frustrating thing about working on a radical project for a long time is that you often can't really tell if it's doing any good. I've often suspected that a major source of "burnout" for activists is related to this uncertainty. At first, people get involved because they're inspired to make change — they're distressed at how things are. Over time, they put in a huge amount of work and time and energy. Weekends and evenings get spent in meetings and stuff like vacations and fun can sometimes get delayed or sacrificed. For most people, this would be okay if they could see how their work was making change. But after a certain amount of time, they realize that they can't tell if anything is changing. Or maybe they realize

Slingshot Alumnus Remembers

By Jesse McCloud

Slingshot's 15th birthday makes me feel kind of old, because I was in on it from just about its beginning. I was an English grad student at Berkeley when I became "Experienced" in Jimi Hendrix's term. I was working on my dissertation, serving as

true what the right says about the "liberal academics" corrupting our youth!) — but the articles I write for *Slingshot* are read by a lot more people than my cerebral studies of William Blake and Victorian novels. *Slingshot*, I note, now has a circulation of 12,000, and is distributed nationally, including to a sizable



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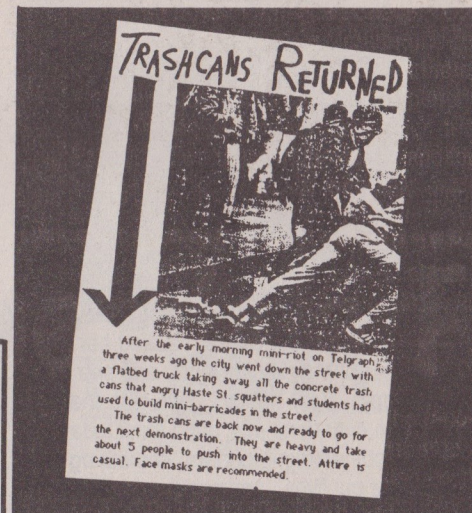
For one *Slingshot* article, marking the anniversary of the Free Speech movement at Berkeley, I went to the Bancroft Library Special Collections department, where I looked at their collection of radical papers from the 60s. I am proud to have contributed to a paper that will go into that collection commemorating voices of dissent against the repressive aspects of mainstream society. This despite remarks by "friends" which satirically contrasted my academic writing with the kinds of rhetoric of *Slingshot*.

I remain an academic — I have a job as a professor in a Southern university (hey, it's

true what the right says about the "liberal academics" corrupting our youth!) — but the articles I write for *Slingshot* are read by a lot more people than my cerebral studies of William Blake and Victorian novels. *Slingshot*, I note, now has a circulation of 12,000, and is distributed nationally, including to a sizable incarcerated population. *Slingshot* has allowed me to spread my strong views on things that confronted me as I became a mother: my belief in "natural" childbirth; my conviction that the practically universal practice of male circumcision in the U.S. is nothing short of genital mutilation. As an environmentalist, *Slingshot* has allowed me and the branch of the Sierra Club I'm involved with here, to express our opinion on clearcutting, pollution, and genetic engineering.

So, while teaching a class this semester on literary utopias, I read *Slingshot* as the collective shout of voices that promises an alternative to our present dystopian society, a wave of energy that may help to bring about an ideal society. Without voices of dissent, without resistance to a society whose values are destructive, distorted and demented, utopia will always remain "nowhere" (the literal meaning of the word). It is only by imagining an alternative and articulating opposed values that change will ever come. Viva *Slingshot*!

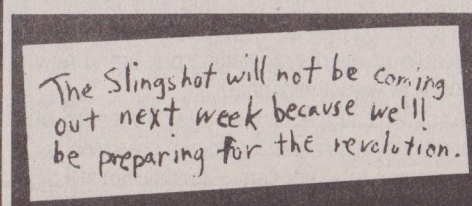
students" to sign everything got to be more trouble than it was worth. The university,



reacting to the campus anti-apartheid movement in the mid-80s, kept making new rules to prevent students and off-campus radicals from cooperating. The university finally banned people without student IDs from coming into many campus buildings. This tactic worked — since then, there hasn't been much contact between the shrinking student radical scene and radicals living in town.

Just at that moment, in the spring of 1993, the Long Haul, a movement space for meetings that started in 1979, was facing eviction. We rented an office at Long Haul and joined the struggle to stop the eviction.

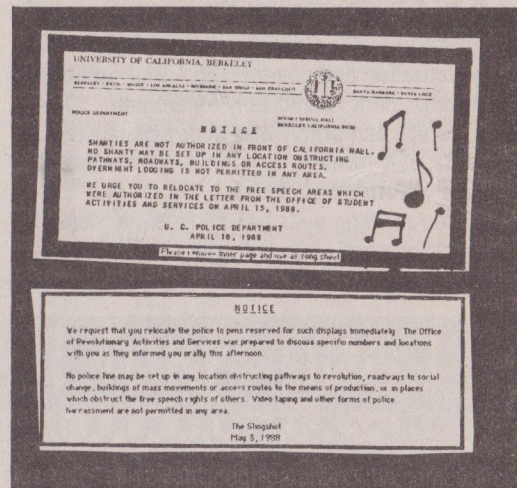
Up to this point, it wasn't clear if *Slingshot* would keep going or not. After publishing weekly for a while, it started publishing monthly. Then in 1990 publication got less and less frequent. Renting an office was a declaration of sorts that *Slingshot* would keep going and transition to a new phase. Most people in the collective were a little older and were working more hours by then, so the project had to adjust.



putting the whole paper together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. On Monday, mentally and physically spent, we would take the paper to the printer.

Most of the traditions developed at that time persist to this day.

One frustrating thing about working on a radical project for a long time is that you often can't really tell if its doing any good. I've often suspected that a major source of "burnout" for activists is related to this uncertainty. At first, people get involved because they're inspired to make change — they're distressed at how things are. Over time, they put in a huge amount of work and time and energy. Weekends and evenings get spent in meetings and stuff like vacations and fun can sometimes get delayed or sacrificed. For most people, this would be okay if they could see how their work was making change. But after a certain amount of time, they realize that they can't tell if anything is changing. Or maybe they realize



that this whole social change thing could take a long time. Not just a few years — maybe not even a few generations.

At this point, some people figure they have a choice — sacrifice their personal life in endless frustrating meetings for something that is uncertain and illusive, or flush activism completely down the toilet and enjoy life. I've noticed that the people most likely to burn out are precisely the people who throw themselves into activism the most deeply. The people who

SLINGSHOT

take on amazing numbers of projects and seem the most fully dedicated.

An important key to sustaining activism over a long period of time is figuring out a good balance between a happy personal life and activist work. That way, when you start to realize that maybe change could take a long time, you aren't left with the stark choice of total self-sacrifice or burnout — leaving activism completely behind. Instead, you have better choices: you spend enough time enjoying life while also doing a reasonable amount of activism. While you might not be able to throw

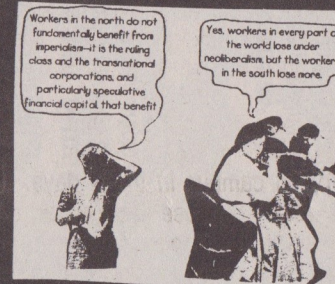
All graphics on this page are from past issues of Slingshot published between 1988 and now.

I don't think the importance of these humanizing aspects can be overstated. Over the last 15 years, the changing *Slingshot* collective has been my family, my community, my tribe. Where yuppies have a yuppie lifestyle, I have had a *Slingshot* lifestyle. The extent to which people can find community and support in the activist work they do will help determine how long people can maintain their activism, and how long different activist projects survive.

Another amazing thing about *Slingshot* which I think has permitted it to persist all these years is our defense of a participatory do-it-yourself culture. Somewhere early on, we collectively concluded that efficiency wasn't the most important goal of the project. Mainstream western society always holds efficiency as its highest value, even where the pursuit of efficiency creates human misery or environmental destruction.

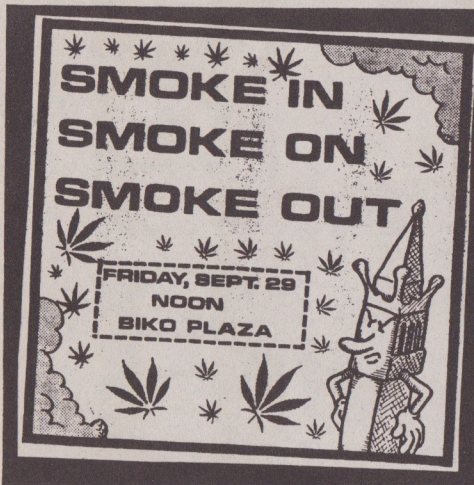
Slingshot has always tried to promote participation over a division of labor in which a small number of experts do all the mental work,

subscribers. We've been far more than just a Bay Area paper for the past few years, with the majority of our circulation outside the Bay



Area. We have our funding figured out, we have a decent office, an amazing collective, and we have established lots of structures for making things work non-hierarchically and smoothly. Because of the Organizer, people actually know what you're talking about when you say *Slingshot*.

The task for the next 15 years is to take what we've built in terms of the *mechanics* of getting a publication out, and use it as well as possible. Our biggest weakness is our content — our writing (and also art and photography . . .) We still function a lot like the zine we were 15 years ago, with most articles originating within the collective. Ideally, we would like to publish articles by outside authors — people who are good writers, or people involved in movements and organizations outside our immediate scene. This issue we've worked to reach out a little more than usual. Hopefully



all your energy into the cause, at least then you're doing *something* — and you can keep doing it even if you're far from certain that the *something* you do is the best thing, the right thing or the most effective thing — or that it will even do any good at all. If it doesn't do any good at all, at least you tried.

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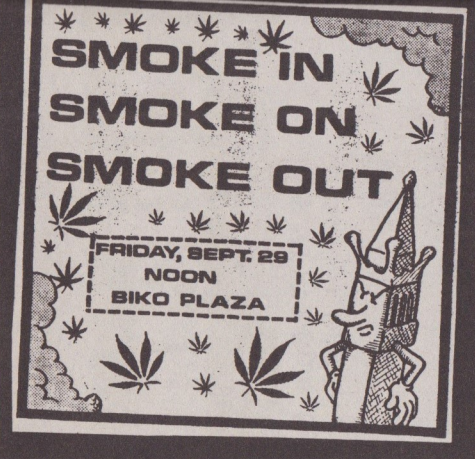


January 18 March on Washington

Continued from page 5

For most of American history, our country has had a very strong isolationist, even pacifist, political streak (though it's also had a strong militarist and expansionist one). As a democracy — however partial — the United States has never been able to throw its people into war without protest. There was a brief window during which this was different: the Golden Age of the post-war boom, when the Korean and then Vietnam Wars were entered without much noise. Today, however, after twenty years of laissez-faire cruelty, it is pretty clear to everyone that the interests of the American empire and of ordinary working class Americans have nothing to do with each other any more. War, throughout history, has been a catalyst to broad, even revolutionary, social changes. The Civil War freed the

WOMEN'S TAKE DOWN YER TROUSERS!



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Another key to maintaining activism over a long period is to try to make the process as stimulating and humane as possible. We all know there are horrendous meetings and projects that just take energy out of the participants. One of the best parts about working on *Slingshot* is that while there is a lot of work, I think most of us get something positive out of it, too. Its exciting, at times. It encourages us to think and discuss stuff. We spend social time hanging out and being silly. (That's why we often do the page layout naked late at night.) The *Slingshot* crew makes a point of sharing food — we often eat over our meetings. The process of writing and editing a newspaper requires you to think and grow.



After reading about last Fall's scale smashing in Berkeley, these Michigan

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with the physical work left to peons (or, increasingly, machines). Instead, everyone who works in the collective generally does every job there is to do. To this day, we almost always have new collective members who've never designed and laid out a page before do pages right next to people who've been doing layout for 20 years.

This is one reason we still insist of using what some consider primitivist publishing and distribution practices. We still do all our layout by hand with scissors and wax instead of with computers because everyone knows how to use a pair of scissors. Using fancy computer programs quickly creates a class of experts, and a disempowered class of people slower or less capable. The process of doing layout by hand is more joyful as well as being more participatory. We don't spend our whole weekend in front of a computer — we spend it pasting tiny slips of paper together like an

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Another thing I hope will evolve over the next 15 years is a diversification of tone within *Slingshot*. More personal articles — articles in touch with their emotional life. This isn't to say we should have less political articles or dilute them — just that politics can take more forms that the typical "this is the problem - here's the analysis - here is what you can do" mold.

The revolution we need to build is beyond just what's in our heads — it needs to be about



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March on Washington

Continued from page 5

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Coming back to New York City from the march, the city's politics seemed fundamentally different. The whole city seems to be becoming politicized. A new demonstration is announced every day. Unions are taking resolutions against war. Calls for volunteers to help build the march on February 15th are going up on dozens of e-mail lists. There are antiwar stickers on phone booths and subway platforms. Restaurants offer "Antiwar Specials" (they seemed to be Mexican foods). Strangers with peace buttons are on the train and in the streets. One weekend, tens of thousands of "Win Without War" leaflets appeared all over the city, tucked into newspaper boxes and pasted to lampposts. People are calling up to peace groups, asking

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After reading about last Fall's scale smashing in Berkeley, these Michigan women began spontaneously smashing theirs.

The collective process of working with others is especially thought provoking. Our ideas grow, expand and improve as we discuss and work with others.



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Vision for the future

Things for *Slingshot* are a lot different now than they were when we started. We have a pretty amazing distribution network set up. About 5,000 copies of each issue get mailed to over 200 bookstores and distributors all over the United States, plus we have 1,500

we'll keep reaching out more and more — and talented writers will answer the call.

Another thing I hope will evolve over the next 15 years is a diversification of tone within *Slingshot*. More personal articles — articles in touch with their emotional life. This isn't to say we should have less political articles or dilute them — just that politics can take more forms that the typical "this is the problem - here's the analysis - here is what you can do" mold.

The revolution we need to build is beyond just what's in our heads — it needs to be about



changing our hearts. Another way to put it is that we need to go beyond pure materialism and describe how people's values, goals and psychological lives can change (without, of course, totally forgetting about structures and institutions.) Our revolution needs to be about people LIVING and loving, not just about being activist robots.

Happy birthday *Slingshot*.

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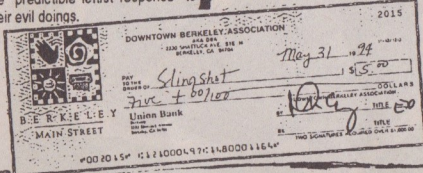
In the days after September 11th, there were vigils and demonstrations in Union Square downtown, dozens of chains of people holding hands and singing and crying for peace. I've thought about them these past few weeks, since the March on Washington. In some ways, living in a city that has been bombed helps us to see how fragile and precious the city is, how easily it is destroyed in an instant. If the March on Washington is any indication, there may be more and more Americans who are committed to making sure that it does not happen in our name ever again. And if enough people take this idea seriously enough, the whole course of our history seems more open than it has for some time.

Zany Comic Strip

Last month, the Downtown Berkeley Association sent *Slingshot* \$5 of Berkeley taxpayer money for a subscription. DBA wanted to know the "predictable leftist response" to their evil doings.

Slingshot does not take money from their ilk.

Slingshot did, though, cash the check and earmark it towards charity campaigns.



This particular \$5.00 was donated to the Midnight Street Education and Employment Muralism Project. \$5.00 pays exactly for the price of one can of acrylic spray paint.



This particular can of spray paint might have painted many slogans, art-pieces and the like, designed to educate and inspire people of Berkeley about the evil doings of the DBA.



The Berkeley Oakland Support Services "Graffiti Busters" homeless employment team, funded partially by the DBA, came in a week later, and were paid a living wage to clean that same graffiti off the walls!



The happy homeless street cleaners of Berkeley thank the DBA for their \$5.00 donation to *Slingshot*. It was an investment that paid off handsomely!

Action Calendar

Long Haul Infoshop Radical Library

Radical Reading room • Lending Library • Archive • Radical Resource Center • Book & Zine Shop

Open Mon - Thurs 6-9 • Sun 3-9

Events Calendar
www.thelonghaul.org

3124 Shattuck Ave. • Berkeley, Calif. • 510 540-0751

Long Haul
3124 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

If you mail ordered a 2003 Slingshot Organizer, here's a sample copy — see page 2
If last issue on your table reads "77" see page 2 to continue your subscription or you will be deleted!

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March

March 4 2pm Tuesday

Celebrate Berkeley Mardi Gras. Meet the parade at People's Park, Berkeley (Haste above Telegraph)

March 8, 2003

Global Womyn's Strike. Basic info.:
<http://womenstrike8m.server101.com> and for those in the SF Bay Area call 415-626-4114 or by email at sf@crossroadswomen.net.

March 8 8pm Saturday

Movie showing: The Bandit Queen. Come celebrate International Women's Day! 3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

March 9 7pm Sunday

Celebrate Slingshot's 15th Birthday! Party, vegan cake. 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

March 14-16, 2003

5th Annual Southern Girls Convention Workshops and speakers featured at Western Wilson College in Swannonoa, North Carolina.
www.southerngirlsconvention.org

March 29 10-6pm Saturday

9th Annual San Francisco Anarchist Book Faire. County Fair Bulding 9th and Lincoln. Free.

March 30 10-6pm Sunday

Third Annual Bay Area Anarchist Conference. 766 Valencia, San Francisco. See article on page 2. Contact SF-bayanarchists.org.

April

April 6 3pm Sunday

Slingshot New Volunteer Meeting! Join us for the experience of your life at 3124 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley.

April 11 6pm Friday

Berkeley Critical Mass!!! Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART.

April 11-13

South West Anarchist Conference Create an anarchist network and develop strategies specific to the region! Contact SWAN at phoneixanarchist.com

April 19 Saturday

Visions in Feminism Conference at College Park, Maryland
visionsinfeminism@hotmail.com

April 19 12-5pm Saturday

Celebrate Earth Day in Berkeley at Civic Center Park.

April 20 4:20pm Sunday

4:20 at 4:20 Safety Break at People's Park.

April 27 12-5pm Sunday

Come celebrate People's Park Anniversary!!! Party!

May

May 1

International May Day Celebrations.

May 9

Slingshot Article Deadline for Spring Issue 78.

May 18 1pm Sunday

MAD PRIDE Freedom Rally in front of the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Moscone Center in SF. 1-877-MAD-PRIDE.

May 18-20

Shut Down the World Agricultural Forum! St Louis (home of Monsanto) will be the host of the next WAF Congress. Join us in active resistance! Link: www.worldagforum.org

May 23 - October

Cascadia Summer. Come to Cascadia to protect endangered forests! Contact: Cascadia Summer 1540 SE Clinton St. Portland, OR 97202 cascadiasummer.org

June

June 1-3

G8 Summit Evian, France

June 20-22

Biodevestation, Washington, D.C. Gather in D.C. in response to the annual convention of the Biotechnology Industry Organization. Contact larcher@foe.org.
<http://www.biodev.org/>

September

September 10-14

Anti-WTO Protest in Cancun, Mexico.
<http://mexico.indymedia.org>

Ongoing

Tree Sit! Protect the Freshwater watershed. Call North Coast Earth First! 707-825-6598 or visit www.treesit.org

REMEMBER...
FIRST BUSINESS DAY
AFTER START OF THE
WAR—FUCK SHIT UP!!!

Amanda Mayer
2534 18th Ave. S. #1

1/29/2003

Code 0

Last Issue 77